

The National BILLIARD NEWS

THE FULL SERVICE PUBLICATION OF THE BILLIARD WORLD

PUHKA SEZ:

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THEY'D RATHER SELL IT TO YOU!

VOL. 4, NO. 4

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JUNE, 1976

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Segal Scores in Budweiser Open

SACRAMENTO, CA.—The Budweiser Open 9 Ball Tournament began on Saturday, April 3rd. After the players' meeting and draw in the afternoon, the games began in the early evening.

Luckily the draw had good balance as far as player ability was concerned. Mike Segal and Louie Roberts looked to be the favorites as the meet progressed, and they didn't meet until Tuesday night, April 6th at 10:00 p.m.

The crowd on hand was huge as Roberts and Segal played down to a 10-10 tie. In the final game someone from the seats yelled "On the Break, Louie", and sure enough, St. Louie Louie made it on the break and the place went wild.

Segal proceeded to beat everyone in the loser's bracket and looked forward to a rematch with Roberts.

Meanwhile, Roberts met James Christopher in the final winner's bracket match.

Rated an 11-9 favorite, Louie found himself on the short end of a 6-1 score, and wound up losing the set, 11-9. So Louie had to turn right around and play Segal again, only this time in the loser's bracket... Segal won the match, 11-9, setting the stage for the finals on Sunday evening, April 11th.

Segal played perfect pool in the finals, so good that Christopher had no chance. Segal won both sets, 11-5 and 11-6.

Thirty-four players entered the event, hosted by Terry Stonier at his Jointed Cue Billiards and co-sponsored by Budweiser Beer.

Final Standings: 1st — Mike Segal, Rochester, NY, \$2,000; 2nd — James Christopher, San Antonio, TX, \$1,000; 3rd — Louie

Roberts, St. Louis, MO, \$600; 4th — Larry Hubbart, Rochester, NY, \$500; 5th — Richie Florence, Redondo

Beach, CA, \$375; 6th — Brian Hashimoto, Honolulu, HI, \$275; 7th — Cole Dickson, Reno, NV, \$200; 8th — Dave Ferroni, Modesto, CA, \$150.

Brunt Captures Cue-Nique Title

By Bruce Venzke

Madison, Wis.

\$1010 in prizes were up for grabs on April 25 as Jerry Briesath held his 3rd Cue-Nique Nineball Open in Madison, Wisconsin.

Tournament Director Dr. Dan McCann broke 26 entrants into five round-robin brackets for best 8-of-15 preliminary action in this first Wisconsin tournament to pay over \$1000 in cash prizes. (Host Briesath added \$100 from the Cue-Nique coffers to reach the \$1010 figure.)

In the No. 1 bracket, U.S. Open champion Dallas West lost one match to Leon Ledford (Chicago), but advanced to the finals along with Ron Dobosenski (Duluth) as both had 3-1 records.

The second bracket was the property of Jeff Mohl (Chicago) and Bill Mielke (Milwaukee). They joined the finalists by virtue of 4-0 and 3-1 marks, respectively. Mohl, one of the gold-shirted warriors playing under the banner of Nick Page's Marie's Golden Cue team, caused a stir by falling behind Willie Munson 1-7, and then winning seven games in a row to eliminate the popular Milwaukee pro by an 8-7 score.

The very tough No. 3 bracket sported Tom Spencer and Wendell Weir from Chicago, Jeff Carter (Beloit), and hometowners Jerry Jamieson and Jim Fitzpatrick.

When the smoke cleared, Carter and Fitzpatrick had posted 3-1 marks and were in the finals, while Spencer and Jamieson each lost a couple of squeakers and were eliminated. Weir failed to

show his usual strength and was winless this time around.

The fourth bracket was swept by Milwaukee George Brunt with four wins and no losses. He was accompanied into the finals by Marshall Boelter (Chicago) who lost only to Brunt.

The 5th bracket was headed up by George Pawelski (Racine) and Steve Gumphrey, a road player from Rockville, Maryland. They both handled everybody else pretty easily, and in the position game, it was Pawelski 8-7 over Gumphrey when the steady-shooting Steve hung the final seven-ball on the lip. But no matter, as they were both in the finals, Pawelski with a 5-0 finish, Gumphrey 4-1.

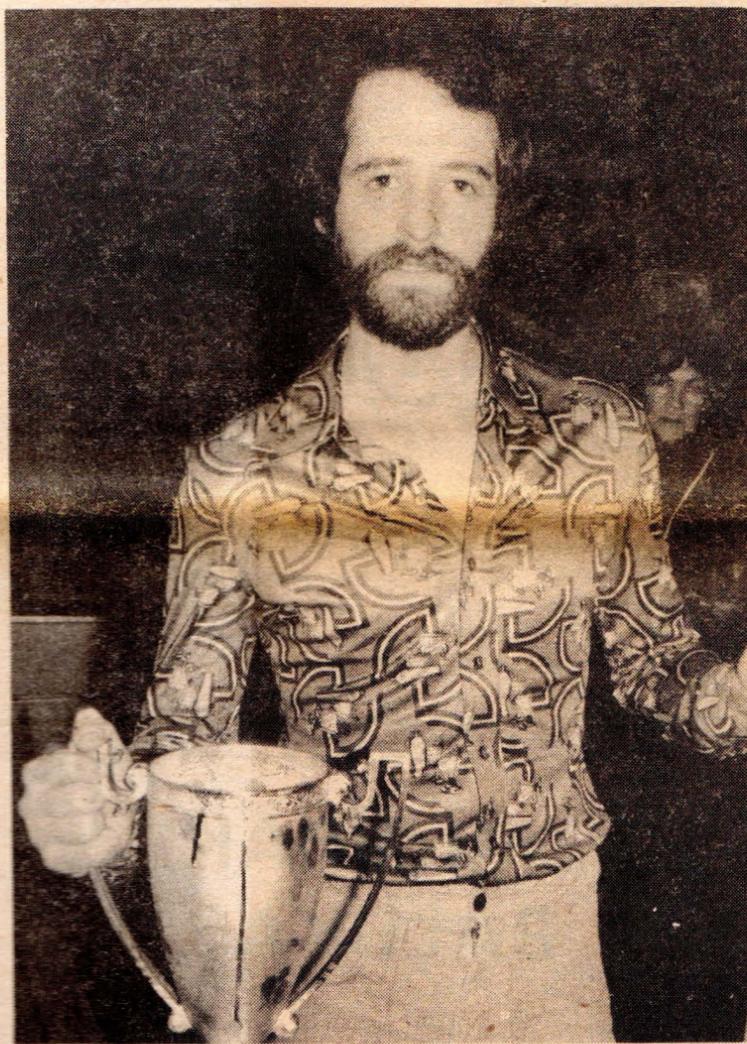
The finals were 11-of-21, single elimination, and the blind draw was merciless to the top dogs. Carter, Brunt,

West, Gumphrey and Pawelski were the five in the lower half of the chart.

The first two matches were Mohl-Dobosenski and (sure enough) a Pawelski-Gumphrey rematch. Mohl took an 11-5 loss from Dobie to wind up 10th, while in another great match, Pawelski again nipped Gumphrey in the one-hole, 11-10. This time the match boiled down to the final six-ball which Gumphrey swung at and missed; thus it was 9th place for Gumphrey.

Pawelski's reward for his tough 11-10 win was the next match with Open champ Dallas West. George and Dallas sparred pretty evenly for a while, but then George made a strong move to take a commanding lead of 10-6 (racing to eleven).

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"CAPTAIN HOOK" — Mike Segal

PPPA Announces World Tournament

Editor's Note: The following press release was taken by phone from Mrs. Joan Margo, spokesperson of the Professional Pool Players Association, Tuesday, May 25th, 1976 and we are reprinting verbatim. (For any other details please contact the PPPA at the address listed in the release)

"For the first time in the history of pool, the greatest players in the world have united. They have formed the Professional Pool Players Association and are presenting their own tournament.

"The 1976 World Open Pocket Billiard Championship will be held on August 10th through August 15th (1976) "ON THE BOARD WALK" in Convention Hall, Asbury Park, N.J.

"All the greats will be competing in a 32 person playing field for the title and an expectant \$25,000.00 prize fund. Among those competing: Irving Crane, Luther Lassiter, Steve Mizerak, Peter Margo, Ray Martin, Jim Rempe, Allan Hopkins, Jack Colovita, Cisero Murphy, Joe Balsis, and Lou Butera.

"Tickets for this outstanding event will be available through...

Professional Pool Players Association,
86 Vanderbilt Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10304 Telephone (212) GI-23737

"A six day tournament ticket or season ticket covering attendance at all matches purchased in advance will cost \$30.00. You will also be able to purchase tickets at the door prior to the 11 sessions. Afternoon matches will start at 2 PM and evening matches will begin at 8 PM, Afternoon tickets will cost \$3.00, Tuesday thru Thurs., Friday \$5.00, Sat. \$6.00. Evening matches Tuesday thru Thursday will cost \$4.00, Friday \$6.00 and Saturday \$7.00. Tickets for the championship game at 2 PM Sunday the 15th of August will cost \$8.00.

"Special appearances will be made by Guest Celebrity, Minnesota Fats."

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LETTERS



TO THE EDITORS

Your April issue states that a marriage between the BCA & the IPBA is liable to end up in a divorce. The reason seems to be \$20,000.00 that the players demand for prize money at the USO in August 1976. It seems that the BCA does not have the money to give them.

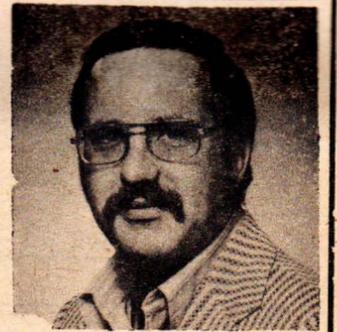
One evening many years ago our family attended church services, at the door each person was handed a candle. While Mass was going on the lights went out and the church was in total darkness. Up on the altar a small altar boy struck a match and put the tiny flame to his candle, he then touched his candle to the priest's candle, the priest touched his candle to the next candle, etc. The sight was something to behold, from the tiny spark in the front of the church the church gradually filled with light till the whole church was lit up like a Christmas tree. The priest then gave his sermon with the idea that our faith can start from a tiny spark and truly grow beyond our wildest beliefs. I never forgot this demonstration and have used it many times in my life with much success.

Once again I will strike the spark. Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 to be given as part of the prize money the players want so much. If 1999 other people who love the game of Billiards as I do give \$10.00 each then there will be no problem.

I am a Member of the BCA. I intend to join the IPBA today. I subscribe to both Billiard papers and have bought most of the books on billiards and have attended all the tournaments I could get to. I attend the USO and

Continued on Page 15

Commentary



By
Larry Miller
MANAGING EDITOR

BUCKS FOR BCA?

The letter from Glenn Bannan (see Letters to the Editors) was received with mixed emotions in our office. All of us would like to see this year's Open prize fund equal to or greater than last year's, but all of us are not sure that donations by the general public is the way to achieve this.

Personally, I am dead against it. I think that the last thing our game needs is for the people who pay the frieght all year long to have to pay additional dues.

To some people who spend hundreds of dollars a year in pool rooms, another ten bucks may not mean anything. To other pool fans, ten dollars may be a lot of money. In either case, one thing is certain: The big sticks in the industry can well afford to write off an additional \$20,000 to advertising, either individually or collectively, much more than the average player-fan can afford an extra ten spot.

We have returned Mr. Bannan's check. Not because of any personal feelings on the matter, but because *The National Billiard News* is not the place the money should go.

If you feel you want to make a donation to the 1976 U.S. Open, in any amount, then the proper place to send your check is to the Billiard Congress of America, to the attention of Bob Goodwin, Director. The address is 717 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60611.

**VFW TOURNEY
A WHOLE NEW BALLGAME**

Eight hours straight is a ling time to set and watch pool, but save for a trip to the kitchen for lunch, (homecooked by the VFW wives) eight hours straight is what I sat. And, having sat thru a lot of pool playing, I have to say I can't remember when I have been so thoroughly caught up in the excitement.

The 1975-76 Veterans of Foreign Wars State Pool Championship was my introduction to small table competition (see story in next issue). It has made me a believer.

This is the way pool should be played. People milling around, having a good time, cheering for their favorites. Lots of enthusiasm. It sure beats sitting in the stands, dead silent, afraid to applaud or cheer too loud lest you shark another player.

The dedication and devotion to this annual event by the VFW members is something to behold. All of the officials, both committee members and referees, put in long, grueling hours, prior to and during the tourney, with no compensation other than the enjoyment of sportsmanship and brotherhood. And on

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**MIZERAK,
BALUKAS—**

**'76 Billiard News
Champions**

Story Next Issue

The National
BILLIARD NEWS

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—THE SECOND FRONT PAGE—

Goes Undefeated in 3 Day Meet

Walker '76 Gold Crown Champ

NEW LONDON, CN—Gloria Walker, in winning her first major tourney, walked away with \$500 cash, 1st Place Trophy, plus entry to the 1976 U.S. Open.

Ms. Walker blazed through a field of twelve players with an 8-0 record in a round robin format, making several runs of 20 and recording one game of 75 points in 9 innings. This

game may be the lowest inning sanctioned game on record.

The field was sprinkled with veterans and newcomers. They came from Texas, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts.

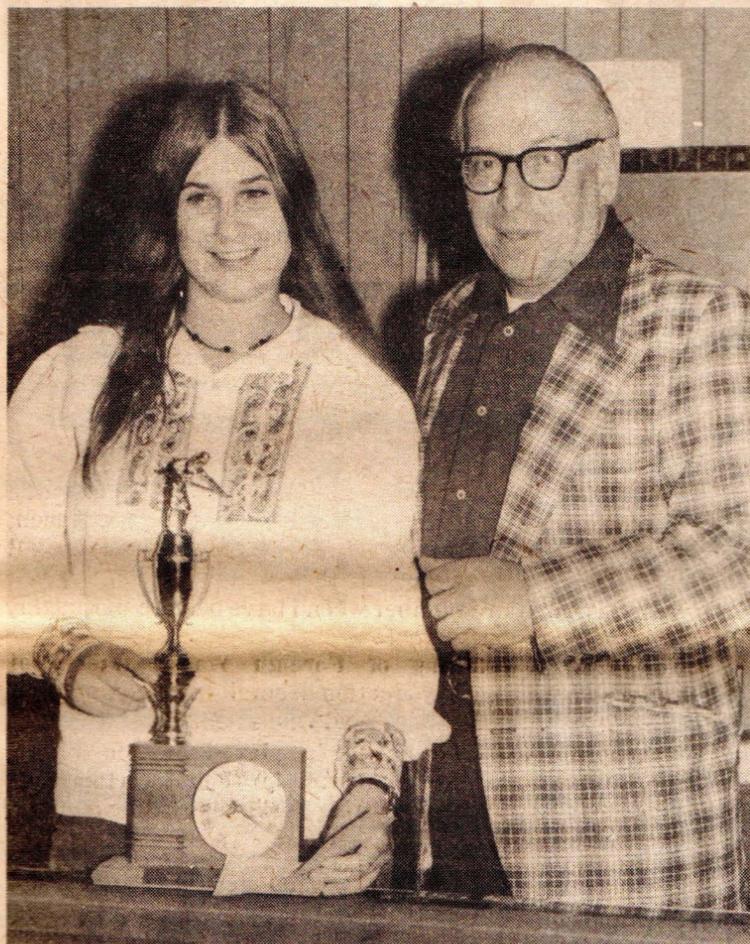
\$1,550 in prizes was divided between the first eight finishers, plus \$50 for hi run

out of the money. Linda Haywood of Maryland looks like a strong contender for top honors in pool, finishing third in her first tournament appearance. Sandy Patarino and Debbie Smith finished second and fourth.

The field was rounded out, in order of finish, by Billie Billing, Mary Kenniston, Nancy Warren, Nena Schneir, Connie Gather,

Shanon O'Hagan, Betty Burden, Terry DiSessa.

Tournament sponsors and promoters Sy and Dolly Eckstadt acted as referees along with Chuck Wieman and Z. Zawicki. The Gold Crown Open was held April 30th thru May 2nd at the Eckstadt's Gold Crown Billiard Club in New London, Connecticut.



Gloria Walker happily accepts the trophy and the cash from Sy Eckstadt. Photo Courtesy Gold Crown Billiards



The top four and two more (left to right) Debbie Smith, 4th; Gloria Walker, 1st; Dolly Eckstadt; Chuck Wieman; Sandy Patarino, 2nd; Linda Haywood, 3rd.

Photo Courtesy Gold Crown Billiards

Torres Sets New U.S. 3-Cushion Record

By Bob Byrne

The return of the United States as a world-class three-cushion billiard power was established beyond a doubt on the last weekend of April at the Western States Open in Los Angeles. The twelve-man tournament hosted by Brunswick Billiards saw three men finish in a tie for first, each with an average 1.000 or better for the finals. Not since 1941 have that many players scored at such a pace in an American tournament. Hoppe, Schaefer, Bozeman, and Cochran managed to do it in '41...in April of 1976 it was Gilbert, Torres, and Hernandez. Gilbert won the three-way playoff, again averaging over 1.000, with Torres second.

Frank Torres, recent

winner of the National Billiard News Open in Oak Park, Mich., set a new American Billiard Association record of fifty points in twenty-four innings, not just once, but twice. One hundred points in forty-eight innings is the best ever for an American player. Torres also broke one of Willie Hoppe's most revered records—best tournament grand average. In 1950, playing a double round-robin with Chamaco, Kilgore, and Worst for the "world" title, Hoppe averaged 1.333 points per inning for six games. Torres over five games (against Gilbert, Hernandez, Herrera, Hisson, and Worley) finished with an average 1.35. Going into his final game with

Gilbert he was averaging an incredible 1.44 (shades of Ceulemans!), yet he needed a win to avoid finishing third, as he had dropped a 41-inning game to Hernandez. Win he did, 50-42 in 45 innings, to give Gilbert his only loss. Hernandez earlier had dropped a game to Gilbert. In the playoffs, Gilbert topped Hernandez 50-43 in 44, then Torres beat Hernandez 50-45 in 54, setting up a Gilbert-Torres showdown, which is getting to be standard for California tournaments. The score: Gilbert 50, Torres 43, in 45 innings. Thus, for seven games, Torres averaged 1.27. (Welker Cochran's best

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Farhat to Head New Organization

LANSING, MI—

A new organization has been formed which is to be known as the World Straight Pool Association. The purpose of this organization is to obtain recognition of all straight pool champions, from the world on down to the local level. Also, to promote and recommend players we feel should be considered to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. We also wish to be consulted of any straight pool rule changes being contemplated. There is no doubt that straight pool best measures the player's ability, for it is a game of skill, concentration, and strategy.

We are not trying to be in conflict with any other player organization in existence today, or the Billiard Congress of America, which claims to be "the

ruling and governing body of billiards." However, we do expect the Billiard Congress to keep proper records of current and past champions, for this is what the sanction fee is supposed to do. We will also keep our eyes open on the way promoters handle tournaments, and the conduct of players during tournament play.

The Association proposes an election of a board of governors composed of current and past world and national champions to head the organization. This election is expected to be held this August. In the meantime, Joseph F. Farhat, Velvet Rail Billiards, Lansing, Michigan will act as the Executive Director of the organization.

The World Straight Pool

Continued on Page 19

Open Forum

By "Machine Gun" Lou Butera

What are the BCA, ABA, IPBA, PPPA, and the WPBA? Without combining their efforts, they are absolutely nothing. We must work together with room and tavern owners, and the entire general public. Every customer or friend of anyone connected with the game of billiards should become a member of one large combined organization. Mailing lists must be compiled for all areas where tournaments are going to be promoted.

Handicap systems, league, and tournament formats should be devised and sent to every bar, billiard room, and other types of businesses having pool tables. Someone has got to take the bull by the horns and do for this game what has been done for bowling. Who will it be?

Well, if it isn't a combined effort of thousands of individuals, it will not happen. The biggest names (companies and players) have never really tried a combined push. It means money, time, and effort. Unfortunately, I can only supply talent, time and effort.

Now, I will tell you one of the main reasons why the game has not hit the heights of the other sports. We (players) have prostituted ourselves for too many years. We have allowed large companies and promoters to fill our heads with promises, and have continued to perform for them without uttering a sound. Now, I will speak my piece.

Many years ago I overheard a newswriter say "This game is going nowhere until Lou Butera wins the world's title and is signed by a big company to help promote the game. He is colorful, and that's what this game needs." And, I was naive and vain enough to believe that statement. Therefore, I continued playing in tournaments, won the world's title and signed with that large company. In the entire year that I was under contract and had the title, this company did not book one exhibition or public appearance for me. Net earnings for being champion — zilch. Do I sound bitter? Then continue reading.

I am going to hit you with some figures now and let you determine if we have done anything whatsoever for ourselves as players.

First of all, I have been playing professionally for 12 years. I have not played in many tournaments because I haven't been able to get away from work, and also because it wasn't financially feasible. Here is a record of my tournament play in these past 12 years: Tournaments played in—31; Tournaments won—11; Second to seventh finish—15; Eighth or worse—5. I will have to admit that this is a pretty fair record, but that is not what I'm getting at.

I have won a grand total of \$34,800. (Looks good in a lump sum, doesn't it?) Now let's break it down. Travel, rooms, meals, tuxedos, and entry fees—\$24,300. That's right gentlemen, figure out your own someday! That leaves me a net for 12 years of \$10,500 or \$875 per year. Breaking it down into hours spent at tournaments: 248 days x 24 hours equals 5,952 hours, meaning that I have made almost 18 cents per hour. Now, if you would like to break that down into hours spent learning and practicing the game.....

What I am finally getting at, is this. I have prostituted myself and my profession for 12 years and refuse to do so any longer. If the rest of the players want to continue along the same beaten path, let them do so. My advice to people who want to start a professional career in pool — GET A JOB! That is, as long as the players refuse to better the game and themselves. If they are willing to make a firm stand, then I'm with them 100 percent.

If you'd really like to feel good about this game, donate your time and services to youth groups and charitable

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3-Cushion Billiards Goes to College



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY 3-RAIL BILLIARD TEAM, 1975-76 TEAM—Standing (left to right)—Lewie Little, instructor; James Sandlin, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs; Players: Doug Weltner of Gainesville, Florida, Robert Sharp of Nashville and John Evans of Chattanooga. Kneeling — Akira Yohama of Japan, left, and Bruce Hackett of Gainesville, Florida.

Nashville, TN—

A program to make three-rail billiards available to Vanderbilt University students was launched in September of 1973 as another activity under the direction of the Student Union located in the Sarratt Student Center.

The project, with Lewie Little, retired newsman of Nashville and Toledo, Ohio as instructor, is now in its third successful year. Throughout that time Little has worked closely with Dean James

Sandlin, assistant dean for Student Life.

Together they have brought players along in the difficult game to a point where they are ready to seek competition with teams from other schools in the South.

Instructor Little announced what is believed to be the first three-rail billiard team ever officially named by a university in the South although the game is played widely at colleges and universities in other sections of the country. It is composed of:

Bruce Hackett, sophomore of Gainesville, Fla.

Akira Ohyama, undergrad from Japan. Akira's hometown is Kagoshima, situated 800 miles from Tokyo where he studied before coming to Vandy.

John Evans, sophomore of Chattanooga.

Robert Sharp, Nashville, a grad student and English instructor.

Doug Weltner, sophomore of Gainesville, Fla.

In tournaments where two-

Continued on Page 16

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BULL SHOTS

By BOB MULLEN
Co-Publisher



I don't think I would consider a proposition game from a fellow that smiles all the time. People that smile easily frighten me as do politicians in general. Ordinarily, the NBN stays away from political discussions but this year is different. There is no doubt about what a pool player has in mind for you but politicians want to do the same thing (beat you into the ground) and expect to be rewarded for their efforts by a vote of confidence.

WHY GO TO THE POST OFFICE?

I was quite surprised to see the program for the tourney at Bend Oregon. It was certainly a class effort and the promoters seemed to have garnered a great many ads but...I don't think that some of the player's photos were published with permission of the face owner. Some of those chaps would prefer to remain slightly anonymous. I have often thought about playing public, with their M-O (Modus Operandi). It may not develop into a best seller but it would have value.

WHAT'S IN A TITLE?

Too many players are adapting titles they have won long ago as permanent. "A World's Champion" or "U.S. Open Champion" who has not defended his or her title in two years should feel embarrassed claiming the honor on a permanent basis. There seems to be too many "World Championships" with no regard to the competition. As in any other competitive sport a winner is only as good as his last showing. They don't pay off for knowledge, technique or natural ability, only for winning. It's nothing to be ashamed of to place or show or finish consistently high in the finals but it is embarrassing when a player who won a "Championship" years ago claims permanent title to the crown without a defending challenge.

COMPLAINTS AND RATIONALE

With all the bitching about the 1976 U.S. Open Prize fund and the industry, I offer this possible solution.

OPEN LETTER TO POOL PLAYERS ORGANIZERS:

(this category includes Joe Turner, Pete Margo, Steve Mizerak, Bill Stigall, Joe Farhat, Ray Martin, Palmer Byrd, Larry Miller and Madeline Whitlow and all of the others who know who they are. I had to include the last 9 words because there is an organization cropping up every three days.)

If we eliminate personalities and try to imagine that all of the above mentioned people and their associates are pockets of energy we can visualize a target (the pool player) being bombarded by little bolts of shock waves. It's a little like the electric shock treatment that is given to unfortunates in mental hospitals.

Why don't we just quit horsing around and face the facts. Fact No. 1 The situation for the player at this time and in the past is terrible. Fact No. 2 The past experiences with the BCA and the powers that be have not been the best. (this is just a nice way of saying that it was getting better but it is not progressing as well as it should and this past development of pulling back on the prize fund has probably set the tournament player back many years).

Fact No. 3 All of the above has prompted the players to take a good look at the situation and rebel in one form or another. One faction is going to break the BCA, the BCA is going to ignore and break the players the women are getting short changed again, the BCA is in a bind financially,

Fact No. 4 Billiards is a popular game, increasing in popularity and the dealers and manufacturers of billiard equipment are naturally profiting from that popularity.

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Tips for Shoppers

The following article appeared in the April 19 issue of Business Week Magazine. Although there are several inaccuracies in it, we are reprinting it here as it appeared.

Actor Rod Steiger uses a pool table for fun in a new motion picture, *W.C. Fields and Me*, when he makes a Fieldsian trick shot with a cue twisted in a 360-degree circle. But buying a pool table is serious business. A new one can run \$1,000 or \$2,000, and antique models sell regularly for \$2,000 to \$10,000 -- and can go as high as \$40,000.

Despite their cost and the sizable space they take up in a home, pool tables are enjoying a resurgence of popularity as good, clean, family fun.

If you are thinking about buying one -- to join such executives as Arthur Taylor of CBS, Edgar Bronfman of Seagrams, ABC's Jim Duffy, Jerry Wexler of Atlantic Records, and others who have tables at home -- be familiar with your needs. New tables are generally less expensive, but antique models restored by a reputable billiard dealer often represent a better long-range value.

First things first, though--you definitely will want a "pool" table rather than a "billiards" table, which is the kind without pockets. In true billiards, the object is to stroke the white cue ball to hit two red balls in succession. It requires considerable skill, provides limited action, and is rarely played today.

A regulation six-pocket pool table, on the other hand, can be used for a variety of games: standard "rotation," in which the balls are

pocketed in numerical order; faster-moving "eight-ball" or "nine-ball," and others. In all games, men and women (youngsters, too) compete on equal footing.

The best tables have a playing surface of Italian slate 1" or 1½" thick. The surface is 32" high and is either 4½' x 9', 4'x8', or 3½' x 7' in size - the length always being twice the width. (Watch out for odd-sized tables. One major name in sports equipment made a number of them before going out of the business a few years ago.) The slate top is made up of three pieces laid across the frame and butted closely together. The hairline cracks between them are filled with plaster of paris, and the whole surface is covered with high-quality cloth (\$40 per yd. at wholesale) that is all-wool or nylon-and-wool. About 50 per cent of the tables sold today are covered in the traditional green, but you can choose from about 20 different colors to match any decor.

More than 500,000 pool tables are sold annually, and about three dozen large manufacturers and as many small ones offer different models. The "Gold Crown" from Brunswick Corp., which is the industry leader and has 130 years of manufacturing experience, is considered by many experts to be the finest professional table around. It costs \$1,950. Gandy's Industries Inc. of Macon, Ga.,

Spalding-Fischer Div., Ebonite, and Murray & Sons of Los Angeles are among other major manufacturers.

A high-grade pool table will last a century with minimum maintenance (\$5 a year," estimates maker Kim Gandy). When you choose one, says Ron Blatt, president of New York's Blatt Bowling & Billiard Corp., buy old. "A new table costs \$2,000," he says, "and you're lucky to get half that if you want to sell it two years later. A restored table for the same money gives you sturdier material and workmanship, and its value increases as it gets older."

Buy from a billiards supply dealer rather than from department stores or sporting goods outlets. Pool tables are precision objects, and it takes a specialist to disassemble and move them and put them together for play. With their slate tops and hardwood bases of oak, mahogany, or walnut, tables can weigh from 600 lb. to nearly a ton. Moving one can run \$100 to \$200 and requires a recovering (about \$90). A dealer also will use shims (small wedges of wood or metal) to level your table to a tolerance of 1-10,000 of an inch.

Cue sticks cost anywhere from \$10 each for a simple one-piece shaft of Canadian maple fitted with a walnut handle to \$130 to \$1,500 for the

Continued on Page 9

Crystal Cue 1976 BCA U.S. Open Qualifier No. 2 JUNE 18, 19, 20, 1976



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HANDMADE by Bill Stroud

Venzke's View from the Bleachers



By BRUCE VENZKE

The senior staffers on the NBN laughed at me when I announced the 1st Annual Pool Poetry Contest in my March column. "What makes me think that pool players or fans would be into poetry?"

Well, I happen to feel that we have a very wide-based readership that possesses talents in virtually all areas. And I have the last laugh, as we received a fine group of poems.

In fact, selecting a single winner was too tough for our panel of eminent scholars. So we have two winners of one-year subscriptions to the *National Billiard News*, thanks to the generosity of the publishers.

The first winner is in the standard poetical category, **Serious, Long and Copyrighted Poems**. It is, in the author's words, a "very true story in the form of rhyming lines about a player I'm privileged to know."

Judging from the poem, the feeling is doubtless mutual. The author, Miss **Smokey Baker** of Paramount, California, manages through her well-written piece to give us some pretty good insights into what she's like, as well as "her hero." I know that when I finished the poem, I felt that I liked both of them. See what you think (the poem is untitled):

I've had my share of fantasies the songs keep singing of
My heroes have been numerous in this night life that I love
Airline pilots, architects, policemen by the score
Musicians, divers, millionaires, and D.J.'s I adore
But the list is headed up by one, a young man that I know
From gangly kid to young adult I've smiled and watched him grow

A little background of my life seems much in order here
A sketch in words of why some men become a hero dear
In Oregon there was a guy who flew a chartered plane
He offered to take me places where I'd never ever been
One winter day in Southern Cal. the architect I met
Successful in his business, and he ruled a wealthy set
Policemen, they're a different breed—excitement fills their days

The ones liked best told hairy tales of how crime never pays
Musicians, wow! Their jam-up life. It's tough—the road to fame

Their far out ways, their hopes, their dreams—and no two were the same

Our summer brought into my life whirlwinds of things to do
Catalina, parties, boats, and diving into blue
I've known producers, brokers, stars, whose lives were filled with ease

Went exotic places as if money grew on trees
And jockey's of the plastic disc—my lonely hour friends
Who play my favorite heartache song—to thank, I can't begin
Entertainment, things to do—I've seen and done the best
I've lived my night life's joys and thrills with a small regard to rest

Some idols I've know personally, while others—just in mind
A few were rude, obnoxious, brash—the greater part are kind

But getting back to number ONE—this local lad grown man
So special to my heart and soul—I'm proud to be his fan
I saw him first in a little place of after hours fame
For night life folk and gamblers of the pocket billiard game
The smokey room, the juke box loud, the crowd all watched in awe

As the youngster ran the table without a single flaw
His brother made and took the bets as the kid with others spoke

And stalled the next game player to tell a friend a joke

Continued on Page 18

★ The Choice of Champions ★

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Four Take Belt Buckle Titles

The 12th annual Belt Buckle Pocket Billiard tournament was held at Joe Farhat's Velvet Rail Billiards, Lansing, Michigan, in May. The popular event gives all players a chance to compete in a tournament with players of their own caliber.

Players are divided into Class A, B, C, and Novice Women according to their shooting ability. This year's Class A champion was Arnie Castillo who downed Edward Joseph, 100-99; Wayne Fate, 100-72; then was knocked into the loser's bracket by Dave Gage 100-25. After that, he beat Junior Lopez, 100-43; Paul Campbell, 100-52; Mark Buchko, 100-83; then came back in the finals to down undefeated Dave Gage twice, 100-56 and 100-78 to capture the Central-Michigan title.

In the Class B division, Steve Frechen went undefeated all the way by defeating Dale Westrick, 75-43; Joe Clevenger, 75-31; Ron



King, 75-25; Gabe Contreras, 75-56; and then meeting Contreras in the finals and downing him 75-59 to capture the B title.

In Class C, George Henry emerged the champion by downing Tom Ehman, 50-34; Gus Makres, 50-30; Fred Marlatt, 50-12; Jack Thompson, 50-16; to meet Roger Simmons in the finals. Simmons won the first game 50-21, but Henry returned to down Simmons 50-26 to

capture the title.

In the Novice Women's division, Connie Austin went through the tournament undefeated by downing Denise Carn, 25-20; Jane Odenwald, 25-20; and after Odenwald went through the loser's bracket to meet Austin in the finals, Austin won 25-18 for the title.

The double-elimination contest was sanctioned by the World Straight Pool Association.

LeCue Open to Young

Wichita, Kan.—

The LeCue Recreation Center, owned and operated by Robert Owen of Wichita, Kansas, was the site of the second annual nine ball open for all the shooters. Some of Wichita's finest players, Junior Brown, Terry Young, host Bob Owen, Kenny Cheatum, Reese Wilson, Lucky Allen, Larry Lovette and several old timers were on hand for the action.

Brown drew Cheatum into

the first round, with Cheatum winning (3-2). Bob Owen eliminated Tom Laubhan and Reese Wilson fell to a stunning upset by a young lady, Lori Fahr. Mark Harris upset last year's runner-up Lucky Allen and Young put away Ronnie Poor.

The stage was set for the semi-finals, and the fans were in for a good one because Bob Owen and Larry Lovette were playing as though they had their stacks on the line.

Lovette won the flip, broke and ran right out. The second break he undercut the six ball. Owen, determined to win, ran out. Give and take, but Lovette won the match. Young whipped Cheatum with some very aggressive play to advance into the finals.

The finals were a double elimination between Terry

Continued on Page 23



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JUNE 24, 25, 26, 27, 1976

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EARL MEETS THE ELITE

By Earl Amond Walker



Have you read any good books lately? I know this sounds like the dullest question in the world; however, if you are inclined to reading, there are some real "goodies" and some real "badies" available on the topics of pocket billiards, billiards, and snooker. If you play for money, while I've never seen it with my own eyes, rumor has it that there are some people who do (perhaps you), there is valuable knowledge in the books written by the likes of Mizerak, Caras, Lassiter, Crane, Mosconi, and many others.

I have devised my own four-star rating system, but of course you understand it's a matter of personal preference.

BYRNE, ROBERT, McGOORTY, A biography of a pool bum. You'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll even find it a little risque.

CHRISTOPHER, BRUCE, THE GODPLAYER, the only redeeming parts of the book are pictures of good looking Bruce and players like Caras, Margo, and Cue Ball Kelly.

COTTINGHAM, CHIVE JR., THE GAME OF BILLIARDS, a book that covers pocket, carom, and three cushion billiards. It has fundamentals for beginners and advanced shots for players.

CRANE, IRVING, POCKET BILLIARDS, a complete step by step guide for beginners.

FENSCH, THOMAS, THE LIONS AND THE LAMBS, an oldie but goodie, it cuts through the myths and presents the sport and its participants as they really are.

HERMANN, FRED, TRICKS AND GAMES ON THE POOL TABLE, interesting if you want to learn trick shots on a snooker table.

KARNEHM, JACK, BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER, a book from England on snooker with English terms that are impossible to understand (example: how to stun the ball). Do you understand that?

KNUCHELL, EDWARD, HOW TO WIN AT POCKET BILLIARDS, a clear informative handbook for those who really want to learn how to play pocket billiards, possibly the best book I've read on the game.

MINNESOTA FATS, MINNESOTA FATS ON POOL, the basics on pool, and I do mean the basics.

MINNESOTA FATS, THE BANK SHOT, the biography part of the book is in the "Fats" tradition, the instructional part is outstanding, the book is definitely entertaining.

MOSCONI, WILLIE, WILLIE MOSCONI ON POCKET BILLIARDS, vivid instructions and a practical formula for pocket billiard play.

MOSCONI, WILLIE, WINNING POCKET BILLIARDS, a really great book for both beginners and advanced players. It also includes a very interesting section on trick shots.

MIZERAK, STEVE, INSIDE POCKET BILLIARDS, Mizerak shares his winning techniques in a complete step-by-step guide

LASSITER, LUTHER, BILLIARDS FOR EVERYONE, unique in billiard books are the stop action pictures which show the direction and motion of the cue ball.

LINDRUM, HORACE, POOL, SNOOKER, AND BILLIARDS, reads like an English history book.

POLSKY, NED, HUSTLERS, BEATS, AND OTHERS, the first half of the book describes the pool hustlers' work situation; don't even bother reading the second half.

TEVIS, WALTER S., THE HUSTLER, what more can I add that hasn't already been said? It's a CLASSIC.

If you are planning on buying a book on pool I hope I have given you some insight on the many books on the market. A friend who is an authority on pool told me that if you learn one shot per book you'll more than cover the cost of the next book.

Better Late Than Never

Sandusky, OH—

The Jaycees had a successful turnout of 153 entrants from 21 area schools, Saturday, February 28, 1976, at Bonnie Lanes Bowling Alley. The field was the largest ever and represents an increase of 26 two years ago, and 62 last year.

Because of the increase in the number of entrants, a third class was added to divide the participants into closer age groups. The contestants were required to win two out of three games of eight-ball through a process of elimination. The top shooters in each division were:

Senior Division (Grades 9 thru 12)

Winner:

Willie "Kojak" Irby, a sophomore at Sandusky High School

Runnerup: Tony Mougey, a junior from Bellevue High School

3rd Place: Robert Knoll, a junior at Sandusky High School

Youth Division (Grades 6 thru 8)

Winner: Mark Mougey, 8th grader from Bellevue Jr. High

Runnerup: Steve Schlict, 7th grader from Adams Jr. High

Youth Division (New Divi-



Senior Division Winner Willie "Kojak" Irby (right) accepts the trophy from the tournament co-ordinator, whose name still remains a mystery.

tion) (Grades 1 thru 5)

Winner: Troy Crabtree, 5th grader from Campbell School

Runnerup: Tim Spittler, 2nd grader from Bogart Elementary School

The winner in each division received a trophy and a jointed pool cue and the runnerup in each division was awarded a trophy.

The third place finalists in the Senior Division also received a jointed pool cue. Prizes were donated by co-sponsor Downings Billiard & Trophy.

The Sandusky Jaycees are primarily a youth-oriented organization and were delighted by the large turnout

for the tournament. Plans for a larger and better tournament, possibly a Jaycees state-wide tournament, for next year are already underway.

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\$100 IN HIGH RUN MONEY

JULY 6 thru 8, 1976

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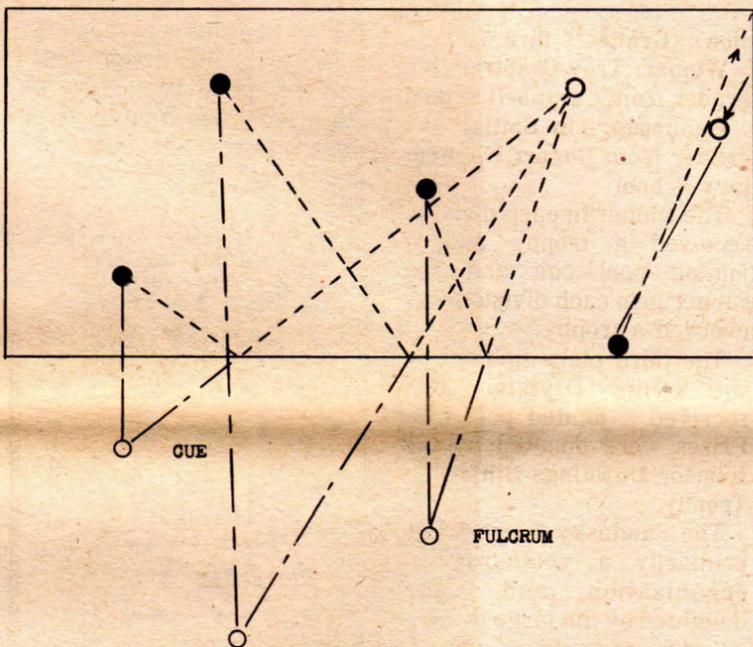
How To Bank

by JOHN LARSEN



Bank shots need a certain amount of speed to be accurate. The fulcrum point shown in a previous sketch is my preference, but, for your own needs, you can change the distance if you wish. It might be good to mark with tape, so that you can maintain it.

To contact the O.B. with the C.B. coming off the cushion requires the fulcrum point be changed each time. The sketch is self explanatory. The general rule is: The distance from the edge of the cushion, to the fulcrum point is about the same as it is from the cushion to the center of the O.B. The firmness of the cushion might alter this slightly. Also, be careful about side English. The best way to line sight this is to measure the distances given in the general rule, and stand the cue on the floor the right distance. Then sight the C.B. and note the spot to hit on the cushion. It takes practice, but once known, comes in handy.



Referring to the bank shot on the right. This is an easy bank which shows up once in a while. A thin hit does it. I've heard it called "a one diamond comebacker."

With the C.B. behind an unbroken rack, the corner balls can be banked cross side. Natural English with follow (to avoid the scratch) can do it.

You and your opponent, each need one ball to win. There is only one ball on the table. Your opponent makes a difficult shot, but scratches. He puts two balls on the spot. Now is your opportunity to realize the practice you have applied. You just hit the head ball four fifths full, with low reverse spin, and watch the other ball throw off the bottom rail into the upper corner pocket.

Practice banking the corner ball for the opening break in 14-1. It is quite risky, but it can be made. Hit as full as possible with follow.

There are many other bank shots to learn, two and three cushion, combinations, etc. These are learned from experience. This treatise is designed for the beginner in this fascinating game. The author hopes that you will find something that will help you in becoming a better player.

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Test Your Knowledge

1. If your pocket billiard table has corner pockets that are 5' across from point to point, are they too big to be legal?

2. If you were playing legally with balls that measured 2 and 27-64th inches in diameter, would you be playing snooker, pockets, or caroms?

3. If the table measures 100" lengthwise, from cushion tip to cushion tip, is it an 8', 9' or 10' table?

4. If you weighed your new set of 16 pocket billiard balls, and their total weight was 6 pounds exactly, would you return them as being too light to be legal?

5. You also put a micrometer to those balls; all

are precisely 2.253" in diameter except the cue ball, which is 2.257". Are the object balls legal? Is the cue ball?

6. Your neighbor's table gives you a backache, and seems so low; from the floor to the top of the rail cap it measures 30 inches. Is that a legal height?

7. Your neighbor's kid also gives you a headache; he's 10 but beats you cold. One trick he uses is a special cue shaft that's 43" long, giving him a cue over 5' long. He can reach shots that his size doesn't permit him to with a regular cue. Is that monster cue legal?

8. You arrive for a tournament and are aghast at the feeble lighting: a 40 watt

bulb over each table. Is this legal?

9. They improve the lights, so you stay and play. Then you find that they're using at least five different kinds of balls, of all ages and descriptions. You charge that they're not up to tournament specifications; will you get them on this obvious violation?

10. During the tourney, your first opponent brings and uses a large, elaborate, and unusual contraption that serves as his artificial bridge. You feel it gives him an unfair advantage and ask that it be declared illegal. The rulebook is consulted. Who wins this one?

For answers see page 18.

Coin-Op Tourney Slated

The first annual Statewide Coin-Operated 8-Ball Billiard Tournament, sponsored by Music Operators of Michigan, will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 19, 1976 at the Lansing Civic Center, Lansing, Michigan. Spectator admission will be \$1 per person.

Nearly 100 contestants who have won or placed in local billiard matches held around the state since January will gather to determine the Michigan Coin-Operated 8-Ball Billiard Champion.

The total purse will be \$5,000 with \$1,000 going to the champion and \$500 to the runner-up. The location sponsoring each of these individuals will receive a trophy. Other cash prizes will be paid through 64th place.

The tournament is sanctioned by Music Operators of Michigan who began competition to enhance play on coin operated billiard tables in locations around Michigan serviced by their members.

Joe Farhat of Lansing and

Billiard News Co-Publisher Conrad Burkman, both experienced billiard promoters, will act as tournament co-directors.

Contestants will need to register in Lansing at 10:00 a.m. on June 19th and play will begin at 11:00 a.m.

Food and beverage service will be available to be purchased during the tournament.

For information contact Music Operators of Michigan, 517-372-2323.



BICENTENNIAL UNITED STATES OPEN 3-CUSHION CAROM BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

July 1 through 5 Sanctioned by American Billiard Association and Billiard Congress of America

TOTAL GUARANTEED CASH PRIZES

\$6000.

1ST \$2000. 2ND \$1000. 3RD \$750. 4TH \$500.

5TH = \$450. 6TH = \$400. 7TH = \$150. 8TH = 150. 9TH = \$125.

10TH = 125. 11TH = \$100. 12TH = \$100.

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JULY 1-5, 1976

TOP UNITED STATES 3 CUSHION BILLIARD PLAYERS

COMPETING FOR OFFICIAL TITLE

ENTRY FEE \$200.

TICKET INFORMATION - SCHEDULE

| Session # | Event | Day | Date | Time | Admission |
|-----------|--------------------|----------|--------|---------|-----------|
| # 1 | Preliminary Flites | Thursday | July 1 | 1:00 PM | \$3. |
| # 2 | Preliminary Flites | | | 7:30 PM | \$4. |
| # 3 | Preliminary Flites | Friday | July 2 | 1:00 PM | \$3. |
| # 4 | Preliminary Flites | | | 7:30 PM | \$4. |
| # 5 | Preliminary Flites | Saturday | July 3 | 1:00 PM | \$3. |
| # 6 | Semi-Final Flites | | | 7:30 PM | \$5. |
| # 7 | Semi-Final Flites | Sunday | July 4 | 1:00 PM | \$3. |
| # 8 | Semi-Final Flites | | | 7:30 PM | \$5. |
| # 9 | Final Flite | Monday | July 5 | 1:00 PM | \$4. |
| # 10 | Final Flite | | | 7:30 PM | \$6. |

DAILY COMBO TICKET: SAVE \$1. SERIES TICKET: \$30. Total

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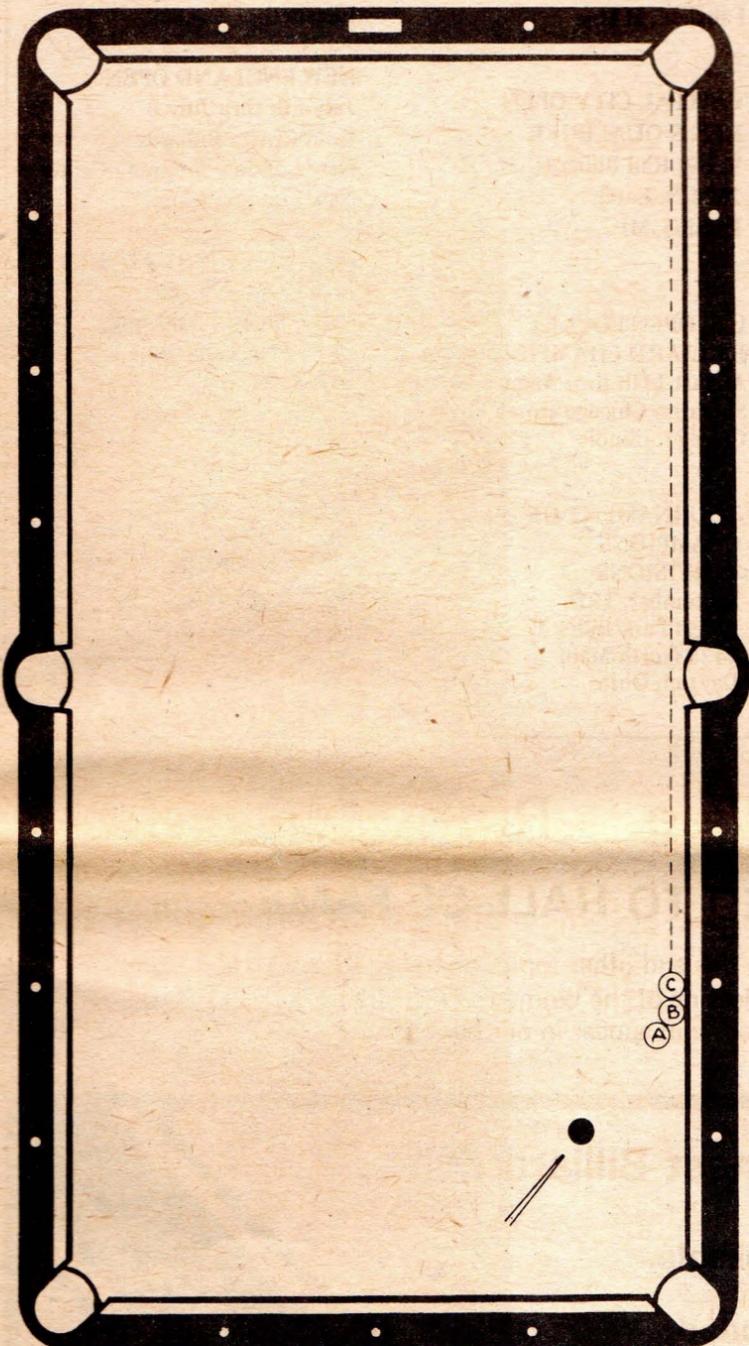
MIKE ASCH, Tournament Chairman

MILT GOLDRING, Tournament Director

TRICK SHOT of the MONTH



By **JIMMY CARAS**
 Five Time World Champion
 Member Brunswick Staff of Champions



A TRICK SHOT

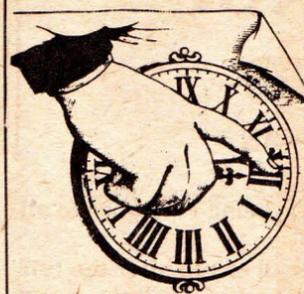
FREEZE ALL THREE OBJECT BALLS AS SHOWN. WET CONTACT POINT BETWEEN BALL "B" AND BALL "C". YOU MUST DO THIS TO POCKET BALL "C" IN THE UPPER CORNER POCKET.

IF YOU DON'T WET THE CONTACT POINT, YOU CANNOT POCKET BALL "C".

HIT CUE BALL CENTER WITH A MODERATE STROKE AND STRIKE BALL "A".

Shopping Tips

Continued from Page 5
 custom-made cues inlaid with Belgian rosewood that Joss Cue Co. of Baltimore turns out for leading players. Buy only balls made of cast phenolic (\$40-\$80 a set). They will last virtually forever. Forget about the old-time players' belief that ivory balls are livelier. They cost \$65 each, can crack, and develop flat spots.



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MICHIGAN STATEWIDE COIN-OPERATED 8-BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

\$5,000 GUARANTEED PURSE

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 PLAYERS' REGISTRATION 10:00 A.M. - TOURNAMENT BEGINS 11:00 A.M.

\$1.00 SPECTATOR ADMISSION

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FOOD & BEVERAGE SERVICE AVAILABLE

NOTE:
 Only winners and runners-up of M.O.M. sanctioned locations may enter.



CAPITAL CITY OPEN POCKET BILLIARD TOURNAMENT

JULY 3, 4, 5, 1976

Men's U.S. Open Qualifying Tournament



CAPITAL CITY OPEN AWARDS

1ST - \$200 + U.S. OPEN ENTRY
 2ND - \$125.00 4TH - \$50.00
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Snooker Scene

by JIM JAUSMAN

Hello to you all — hope that spring is being very good to all of you.

Many thanks for all the notes from all of you after the 1976 Bermuda Tourney — seems that all had a good time and enjoyed the tournament. Now for London, 1977!

Just a lot of miscellaneous notes which we hope will be of interest to you.

After returning to New York from Bermuda over 50 letters were sent to those in Bermuda who helped make the International Snooker League 1976 such a great success. Some of these letters made their way into the press, especially one to the sports editors of several of the Bermuda newspapers. A fine letter is in our files from the Old Colony Club. Also great letters were received from Joe Davis — wasn't he great while with us? — Noel Miller-Cheevers, Leslie Bolson, South Africa's Carl Erasmus, Terry Haddock, Well, the list is great.

The clean-up duties after the tournament went smoothly but took more time than we thought would be necessary — the most pleasant part of those days was breakfast each morning with Carl and Morag Erasmus — I packed in a hurry and now find that I left shoes, socks, et al at Mrs. Reed's and she accuses me of doing it on purpose to have an excuse for another trip to the island! But all was cleared up completely and I can say that nearly every Bermudian now knows that an International Snooker League exists and is headed for a great future.

Have had correspondence from Trinidad — indirectly from the team, and they apparently did have problems, and — they hope to be reinstated and eligible for 1977. However, we have been in contact with a second possible group there for future teams.

Eric Connelly spent some time in New York recently — stayed at New York Athletic Club — played lots of snooker — and applied for membership in the club. Maybe he will be a full-fledged NYAC'er next year.

Connie Falkiewicz and Herb Lehmann took in the Championships in London this April. Anxious to hear their reports on their return. They will surely have lots to say after two weeks in the British Isles!

At NYAC Falkiewicz was, of course, re-elected president of the Knights of the Green Table with your reporter again VP. Your reporter was again selected as chairman of the NYAC Billiards Committee. The new overall chairman at NYAC for billiards and bowling is John Graziadei, under whom we are certain many great steps forward will be taken soon in all snooker and billiards areas at the club.

Haddock is already doing lots of things for his great CNE International Snooker Open in August and early September — amateurs and pros — he is hoping for a number of ISL boys to partake. You can contact him at 1872 Kennedy Boulevard, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada (C-O Terry's Home Billiards). He also says that they are starting their plans for our 1978 ISL Tournament in Toronto.

While on Canada — Gerry Seed and his associates annually run the North American Championships — starring Cliff Thorburn! — in October of each year. For information, etc., on this event featuring top snooker contact Gerry at Seed's Billiard Supply, 283 Richmond Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1Z6x3. Budgie is there too.

Any copies of ISL publicity in your area would be welcomed for the ISL files. The 1976 tournament did very well in publicity.

TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

POOL

**MEN'S OPEN PRO
9-BALL TOURNAMENT**
June 10th thru June 13th
Empire Billiard Lounge
120 S. Robinson Ave.
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— Dorothy Wise — Ruth McGinnes —

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Where Will It All End?

The following is a letter we recently received, and the clipping referred to.

+++

I'm just your average everyday pool fan... married, employed, middle-aged, children... You can imagine my surprise when today I found myself in the same class as the Lepers of old. Please see the enclosed clip from the Burlington County Times from Willingboro, New Jersey.

I have been reading your paper for almost 3 years now, which is about how long I have had my own table. I never realized I was associated with such a low-brow class of people compared to the township committee of Mt. Holly, New Jersey.

I have read many times in your paper of your wish to change the image of pool and pool halls. In a few isolated cases you may be able to do so, but overall it will never happen.

By the general public, an expert pool player is an oddity... a person who

*My friends, we've got trouble.
Right here in River City.
Trouble with a capital T
And that rhymes with P
And that stands for pool.*

—The "Music Man"

By GARY LINDENMUTH
Of the BCT Staff

MOUNT HOLLY—The pleasures of a misspent youth will be denied young men at the county seat here if the Town Council has anything to say about it.

Heeding the immortal words of the fictional Prof. Harold Hill (above), town fathers last night voted on first reading a stiff hike in local permit fees for pool halls, raising the annual fee per table from \$10 to \$1,000.

"We may not be able to ban them entirely — but we can sure make it difficult — and expensive — for them to operate," Mayor Joseph Weber explained to a reporter.

The sudden measure followed a request last month from Willingboro resident Martin Dubrow who had applied for a license to operate an eight-table facility at 40 High St. — the heart of the downtown business district.

While Dubrow has since withdrawn that application (at the urging of Council), last night's ordinance was suggested as a means to ward off any future prospective pool hall entrepreneurs.

probably has never done anything but hang around a pool hall since he or she was a kid. I don't mean to sound bitter, but it just comes off that way.

I have a plan that may be

— REPRINTED FROM THE BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES —

worth thinking about.

If the next person who wishes to apply for a pool room permit would advertise to the public such as the following, I am sure there would be no problem.

In addition to raising the fee per table, Council also voted a similar hike in the license transfer fee — once again from \$10 to \$1,000 — making it all but prohibitive for anyone to return the familiar click of billiards balls to Mount Holly once again.

"We had several establishments years ago," Mayor Weber recalled with disdain. "They were nothing but trouble — fights, a lot of police calls...it was nothing but a hangout."

In reference to the \$1,000 fees, Councilman Douglas Gsell noted: "If someone is willing to pay that kind of money then they would have to be running a first-class operation...something like that would be to our advantage."

Meanwhile, township Solicitor Robert Partlow warned Council that any increase in pool hall fees must be substantiated by a corresponding increase in the cost to process the application.

"Unfortunately, you can't consider police calls in figuring license fees of this kind. Someone could say you were being arbitrary and capricious.

"The fees are not to be so confiscatory that you eliminate pool halls altogether," the attorney said.

Council acknowledged Partlow's advise but apparently decided to stick to its original plan. The new fee schedule was approved on first reading by a 4-0 vote (Councilman Thomas Fooks was absent). A second and final vote will be held next month.

OPENING—New pool hall, conveniently located between motel and adult bookstore. No beer or whiskey at the tables. XXX movies shown from midnite till 2 a.m. Cardgame in backroom from 2 a.m. to 5

a.m. This will remove any doubts as to the stature of the pool hall.

Thank you
STUART BISHOP
Mt. Holly, NY

— Hal Mix Invitational Tourney —

San Jose, CA—

The Hal Mix Invitational Straight Pool Championships was a tournament open this year to a maximum of 24 players on an open basis. Competition was double elimination in games to 75 (except the finals, which was to 125), and extended over a two-day period in the Student Union Games Area at San

Jose State University. The tournament was highlighted by a pocket billiard and trick shot exhibition by Sax Dal Porto, which concluded with a 50-point game between Sax and the tournament mentor, Games Area billiard instructor Hal Mix.

Winner of the tournament was Paul Vecchiarelli, who won the loser's bracket, then

went on to defeat the winner of the winner's bracket, Ron Lilies, in two consecutive games to 125. The top six place listings follow, with place ties being listed in order of highest inning average.

Roy Futternick was the winner of the High Run award.

1. Paul Vecchiarelli, Mt. View, 7-1
2. Ron Lilies, San Jose, 4-2
3. Roy Futternick, Sac-

ramento, 5-2

4. John Lewis, San Francisco, 5-2
5. Robert Van Dyke, San Jose, 4-2
6. Tony Annigoni, San Jose, 3-2

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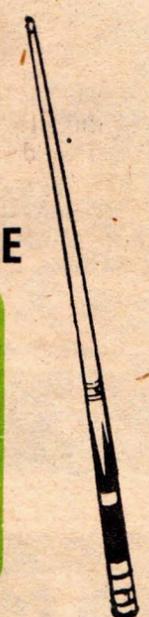
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Ray Martin, Jack Colavita Split in Exhibition

World's Billiards Champion Ray Martin split in a pair of exhibition matches with New Jersey champ Ray Colavita Sunday at the Q-Ball Billiards Lounge's Tournament room.

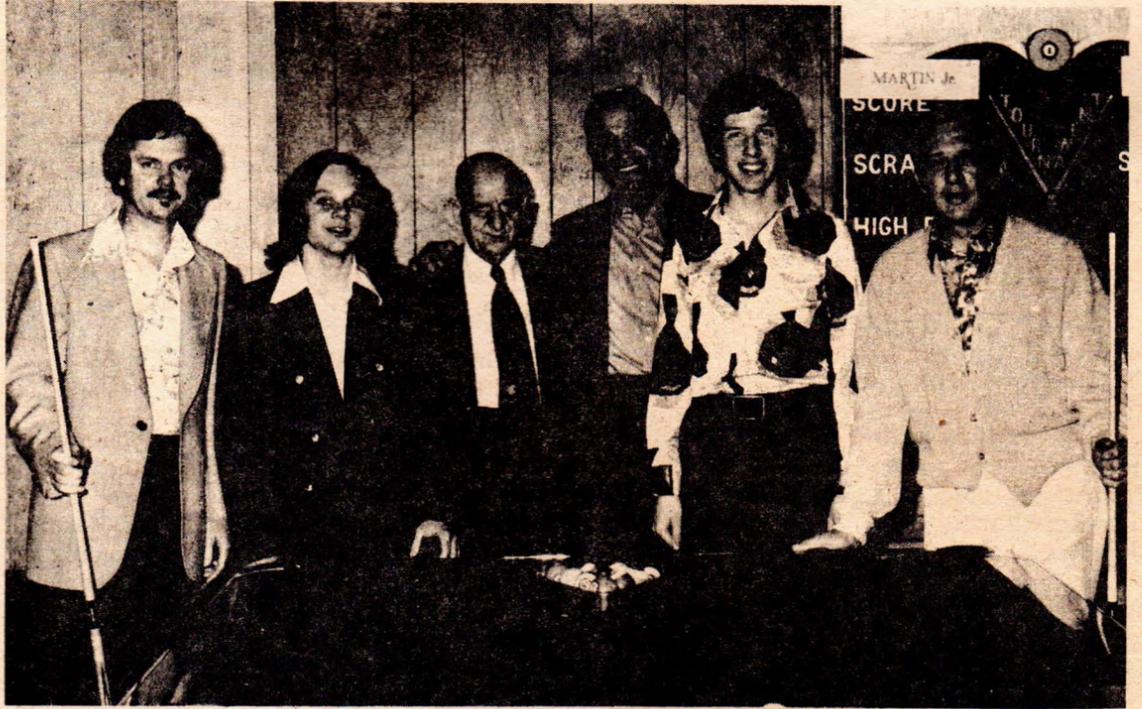
Martin won the afternoon confrontation, 150-120, with a 67-ball run and out. Colavita bounced back to take the nightcap, 150-123 with a high run of 65 balls.

Colavita's son Jack Jr.

defeated Vineland's Tommy Brown 100-75 in a pre-match exhibition at the afternoon session.

Martin's son Ray Jr. took on the younger Colavita in the evening show and used a 44-ball run to score a 100-30 triumph.

Charles "Cue-Ball" Kelly was the referee and also entertained the large crowd at both sessions with his usual array of trick shots.



BEFORE THE MATCH — World Billiards Champion Ray Martin, left and New Jersey champ Jack Colavita, right, battled in a two-match exhibition at Q-Ball Billiards Lounge Sunday. Also on hand were Ray Martin Jr. second left, Jack Colavita Jr. second right, renowned billiards referee Charles "Cue-Ball" Kelly, third left and Q-Ball owner Frank "Zip" D'Orio.

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Pawelski Over Munson In Hayloft Tourney

The Hayloft in Milwaukee was the gathering place on April 10-11 for 24 Midwestern nineball players, as Danny and Jerry Hay put on another well-received tournament.

The players' entry fees of \$840 were supplemented by \$100 kicked in by the Hay brothers, for a total purse of \$940.

There were four round-robin brackets of 6 players for the prelims, with each bracket providing its top two shooters for a double elimination finals set-up.

David Batchelor, up and coming Milwaukee entrepreneur, showed that he can make balls as well as money, going 4-1 to win the No. 1 bracket.

A 3-way tie for the second qualifying spot between Chuck Olla, Chuck Gilbertson and John Williams forced a playoff that Williams won to join Batchelor in the finals.

The No. 2 bracket was dominated by Milwaukee TV's "Championship Billiards" current champion Bill Mielke and runner-up Kevin Stanelle. They both had 4-1 records, each losing one match in the one-hole.

Bracket No. 3 was also a knotty one, as three players tied for first place with 4-1 marks.

Randy Bergeron automatically advanced to the finals by virtue of having the highest game-count of the three. Jeff Carter and George Pawelski had to play off for the other finals slot, and it was Pawelski eliminating Carter by a 4-1 score.

In the No. 4 bracket, Willie Munson and Ron Dobosenski had left the rest of the bracket in the dust before their match came up, so it wasn't needed; they ended up 4-0 and slipped easily into the finals.

For the 8-man finals, tournament director Dr. Dan McCann drew the boys onto a double elimination chart and hiked the length of the race to eleven.

The first round was Dobosenski over Batchelor 11-3, Mielke besting Bergeron 11-5, Williams topping Stanelle 11-8, and Pawelski edging out Munson 11-10 (after Munson had held a 6-0 lead).

Pawelski then won two more quite handily (11-3 and 11-7 over Williams and Dobosenski) to be the "winner's side winner."

There he waited while Munson also cruised comfortably through 4 straight loser's side matches to challenge. Of course, George needed only one win for the title, while Willie would need to win twice.

And this time, in the umpteenth confrontation between the two veterans, it was all Pawelski, as he romped to an 11-3 victory and the 2nd Hayloft Nineball Championship.

The cash distribution:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. George Pawelski |\$400 |
| 2. Willie Munson | 225 |
| 3. Ron Dobosenski | 100 |
| 4. John Williams | 75 |
| 5. Dave Batchelor | 35 |
| 6. Bill Mielke | 35 |
| 7. Kevin Stanelle | 35 |
| 8. Randy Bergeron | 35 |

Retains World Snooker Title

REARDON TOPS HIGGINS IN ENGLAND

By Conrad Burkman

April 24 — Manchester, England — Wythenshawe Forum climaxed one of the busiest months Snooker has witnessed in some time. "Q" Promotions headed by Maurice Hayes put together three separate tournaments, Womens, Amateur and Professional during the month of April with the precision of a watchmaker. With the sponsorship of W.D. and H. O. Wills (makers of Embassy cigarettes) the tournament was a huge success, with nothing overlooked.

used along with the conventional snooker board. The electronic boards work just like an electronic calculator and can be easily seen at a distance of at least 100 feet. The entire playing area was surrounded by movable two-foot high panels to shield the spectator movement during play. Planters of fresh flowers were spread out along the inside of the panels and were changed daily.

Ladbrokers had a legalized gambling booth right inside the door as you entered the match area and the bets flowed constantly through its windows. Throughout the matches drinks were served inside the match area with waitress service. With a few exceptions this is never seen at our tournaments. Not once during the event did I notice anyone who was drunk or anyone getting overly vociferous as a result of the drinks.

Over the last few years we have been working very hard to drop the coat and tie regulation at our tournaments. The English approach is more formal. All players play in evening dress complete with vest, but without the jacket. I must admit the appearance is refreshing. All the officials, however, wear the complete tux. This is carried right

through the players and to the audience as many spectators came to the final evening in their formal attire. The whole affair was done with much pomp and flair. The players themselves approach the game like our golf pros. Their

integrity is everything and their attitude rubs off on the spectators as well.

COOL RAY REARDON SNUFFS OUT "HURRICANE" ALEX HIGGINS IN FINALS.

Reardon, playing at Middlesbrough, defeated South African Perri Mans in a runaway match to enter the finals at Manchester and a chance to retain his title. While Reardon was having a rather easy time of it, Alex Higgins had to defeat John Spencer and Australian Eddie Charlton back-to-back to earn his chance at the title round.

After the first afternoon session which found Higgins leading four to two, Reardon complained openly about the table lights and the table. The lights were the TV floods which were on both sides of the table and completely washed out the regular table lights leaving a double reflection on the balls, causing sighting problems. By the end of the evening session however, it was a different story as Reardon came back with six wins out of seven frames to lead eight to five. This first day would set the scene for what was the ultimate outcome. Higgins would play better in the afternoon sessions and Reardon would come back at night. After the first day the title was never really in doubt.

After watching the various styles of play it is easy to see what makes Alex the crowd pleaser. The older players had a style which could put

you to sleep if you weren't careful. One match in particular featuring Fred Davis and Eddie Charlton seemed like it would go on forever. With no chances taken, play lasted forty minutes before the reds were broken. The opponents would wear each other down by

safety play. Please don't misunderstand, these players are every bit as good and as deadly as Alex. But when you compare this style with that of free swinging "Hurricane" Higgins, you can easily see where he is the people's choice.

With a style reminiscent of
Continued on Page 21



World Champion Ray Reardon — over 900 century breaks and five "147's".



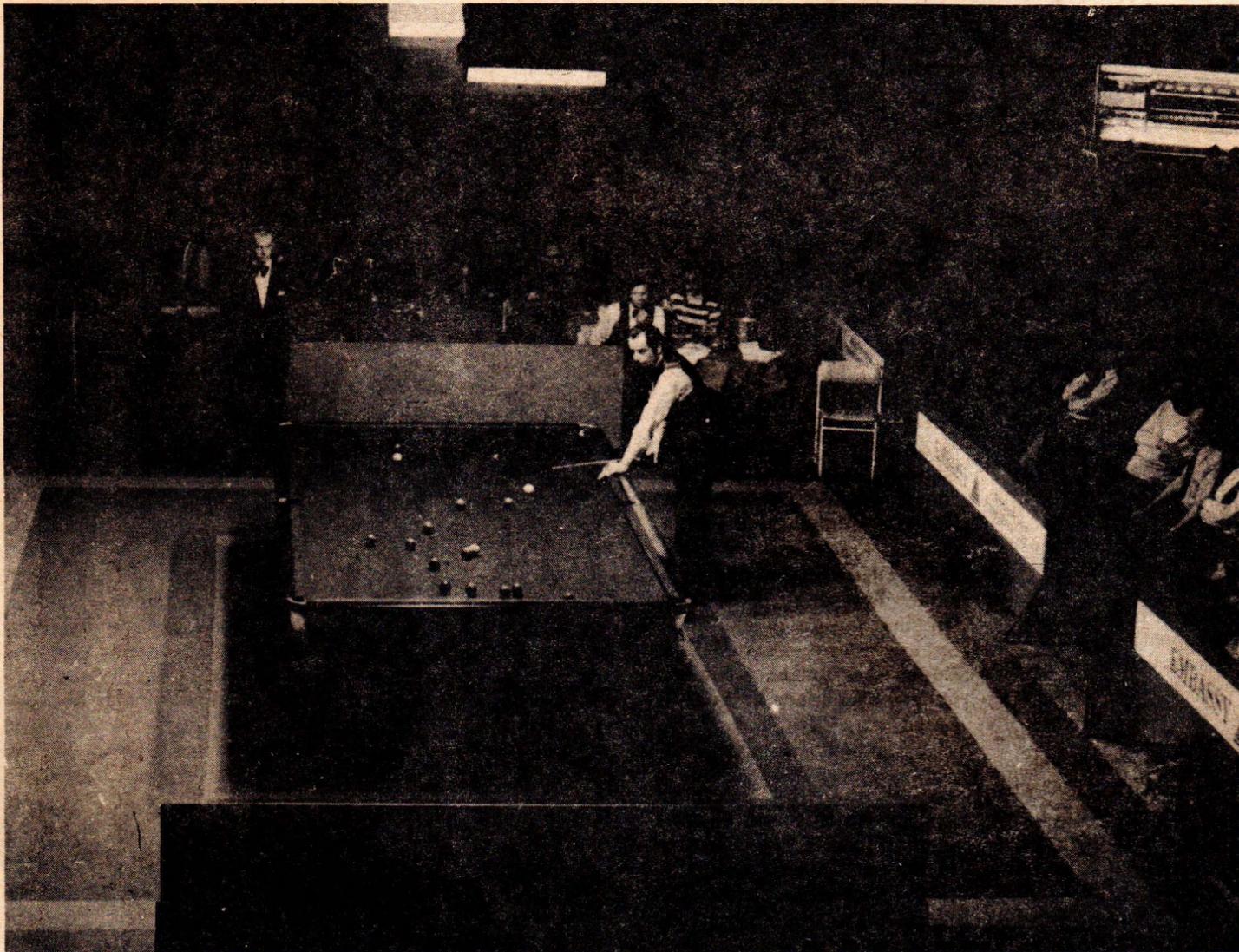
Alex "Hurricane" Higgins, turned back in his bid to regain the world snooker title.

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Torres Sets Record

Continued from Page 3

average was 1.123, achieved in 1935. Hoppe's best in a tournament involving more than six games was 1.250 in 1942, and he was aided in that event by an experimental rule allowing the players to use either cueball on the second shot of an inning, an idea designed to encourage offensive play.)

Al Gilbert, despite the fireworks that have been set off by his major competitors during the last ten months, did nothing to damage his reputation as the country's premier player. He finished the finals with an average of 1.056 and won the playoffs with an average of 1.122. His seven-game average was 1.075, and against Sudden Sam Worley he tied Eddie Robin's ABA best game record with a 31-inning effort.

Reardon and Higgins Relax and Chat Prior to the Matches. (right)



Later (above) It was all Business as Reardon Turned Back Higgins Bid to Regain the World Snooker Title.

Gilbert and Torres are familiar names to the readers of these columns, while Jose Hernandez might not ring a bell. He is no stranger to West Coast players; for years he has been respected for his sportsmanship and his powerful play. A strong job-and family-man, this tall, 34-year-old Mexican-American rarely takes the time to play in tournaments, but when he does he's always a dangerous threat. His last outing was the 1972 BFUSA Sectional, which he won ahead of Bonner and Torres. In the National, held in early 1973 in Portland, Ore., he finished a close second to Bonner, dropping a 4-point thriller to Gentleman John in the championship game. He averaged .719 in that tournament. His 1.005 in the finals of April's meet shows that he has continued to improve and is especially tough on his home tables.

For the record, here's how Frank Torres set the new American grand average standard: 50-16 win in 47 over Worley, 50-15 win in 24 over Herrera, 50-15 win in 24 over Hisson, with a high run of 13, 46-50 loss in 41 to Hernandez, with a high run of 10, and a 50-42 win in 45 over Gilbert, with another high run of 10.

How does a man make 100 points in only 48 innings? Torres did it this way. His inning-by-inning count against Hisson was 4-1-3-1-0-0-13-0-1-1-2-0-5-3-0-0-5-1-6-0-3-0-0-1, total: 50. Against Herrera it was 3-4-1-0-1-5-6-0-0-7-0-6-0-5-4-3-0-0-0-2-0-1-1-1, total: 50. Let's hear it for three of America's new crop of billiard superstars.



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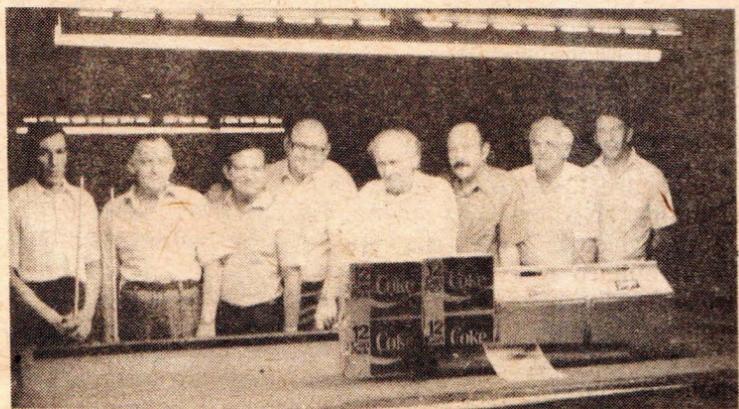
Carom Corner

by BOB MULLEN

Gale Johnson and the American Billiard Association are rolling along sanctioning tournaments all over the U.S. The ABA contests feature some great playing for comparatively small stakes but the point accumulation plan for qualification in the "Classic" provides a bit of frosting on the cake.

ANTLERS OPEN, MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN, May 1 and 2.

Finalists as they finished in the picture below furnished by Image, Ltd. Luis Campos 1st, Bill Hawkins, 2nd, Don Brink (ABA Chairman) 3rd, Harry Sims 4th, Walter Martin, 5th, Harvey Chernin (local) 6th, Carl Liebovich 7th and Bob Letherby 8th. The Coke and the Schlitz on the table came in the money too, for local distributors contributed some liquid refreshment and plastic coolers as auxiliary prizes. Kelly Kue Kases added a two stick case to the loot gathered in by Liebovich, Hawkins and Ameen. Carl Liebovich almost tripped up Luis Campos in the last round of the finals. A loss would have put Campos in third but Luis won out and entered a playoff with Bill Hawkins. Campos won that play-off 35 to 33.



GREAT LAKES OPEN
BRUCE ALLEN'S POOL ROOM, LANSING, MICH., May 1 and 2

Mike Donnelly won this one with a come-back victory after months of illness and an operation. After two defeats by Bob Ameen in the pre-lims and the semi-finals, Mike ripped off a 40 to 15 win in the finals to secure 1st place and put Ameen in the number two spot. A gentleman from Cleveland named Mark Soss finished third for a surprise to the circuit regulars. Donnelly called the shots on George Ashby becoming a player to be reckoned with and Mike says the same thing about Soss. With Bill Hawkins 4th, Bob Letherby 5th and Luis Campos finishing 6th the GREAT LAKES OPEN was history. Ameen finished with high run for the tourney, a big ten and Harry Sims had a nine for high run out of the money. It was unusual to see a Great Lakes Open without a Lansing player in the finals. Ken Allswede, Ben Brown, George Skeehan, Mike Fulgham and the proprietor Bruce Allen were involved as was former owner Bob Strange. Maybe better days are coming for Michigan's Capital City players.

THE GREATER PEORIA OPEN, held in of all places Peoria, Illinois. The **CREVE COEUR CLUB**, a private club and one of the finest settings for all round billiard play in the country, combined its 14.1 and Three Cushion Billiard contests. The 14.1 division had 26 players sign up with Judex James the champion for the fifth time beating club member Gene Ehrlich. The three cushion division had 15 players with Bob McManus almost losing his crown of 22 championships to his pupil, Dave Thrush. Note: Dave Thrush has 20-200 vision and is legally considered blind.

COMING UP SOON THE ROCKHILL OPEN IN KANSAS CITY, ILLINOIS BILLIARD CLUB OPEN IN CHICAGO AND THE U.S. OPEN IN ELIZABETH, N.J.

Continued on Page 22

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Continued from Page 2

consider it the greatest show on earth. This is my reason for wanting the USO Tournament to get better as time goes on.

I have been playing the game for 5 years and my high run is 42 balls. I know the skill and effort that this game demands. These Billiard Pros are not pool players to me because I regard them as great artists with such a delicate touch that at times it staggers the imagination at the feats they can perform.

I would like to thank all the past officers of the BCA for their efforts. I wish the present officers the best of success and hope that they continue this great work.

Thank you for your time and for a great Billiard paper.

Sincerely,

W. GLENN BANNAN
Cresson, Pa.

Ed. Note: For disposition of this money, please see the commentary column on Pg. 2

* * *

The writer has just returned from the First Southeastern U.S. ABA 3 Cushion Championships in Boca Raton, Florida.

It was gratifying to see the magnificent start which our host-owners, Mr. and Mrs. Max Brooke made. Their hospitality was something to behold. Last month you read about the final scores and prizes. However, a

feature was added which to our knowledge was a new and original idea. This is the special trophy for the player coming the longest distance. Naturally the writer liked this promotional stunt having won this prize for longest trip from Los Angeles. So it is hoped you will henceforth bow and be properly overwhelmed when in the presence of a star of this magnitude.

The University Bowl is a beautiful building and there is promise of continued expansion of larger billiard facilities. The enthusiasm for billiards in this great resort area is among both the retired elite and the brilliant younger talent. Especially pleasing to this old codger was no hats on, no loud racket and no booze at the tables. The present three tables are going continually for ten or twelve hours daily.

Perhaps the most incredible feature of all was the extensive press coverage. Your paper would not have room to reproduce the full page of pictures and article enclosed "Experts Say Send Kids Back to the Billiard Room." And this from only one edition of the front page of sports section of the Palm Beach Times... A couple of other local papers were in daily attendance.

Look for this affair to be greater next year.

AL SCHMIDT
Southgate, CA

In your National Billiard News, August, 1974, page 14, Bruce Venzke expressed (to Steve Mizerak) that a billiard player does not reach his peak until he is 45 or 50. In his book on Snooker, John Pulman (World Professional Snooker Champion between 1958 and 1968) tells that a player does not reach his peak until he is at least forty-five years of age.

Well it seems there is a general agreement between players about this matter. But do you know there was once a scientific study of that particular aspect of the game. You will find enclosed an extract of an article published in the October, 1938, issue of "The Research Quarterly", journal of The American Association for Health and Physical Education, pages 14 and 15.

As you will see there is an interesting diagram showing different ages at which world records were broken or world championships were won. You can read the conclusions: the age range for world championship performance is from 19 to 55, but the age range for the breaking of world records is from 26 to 49. At that time, they did not know that Willie Hoppe would win his last world championship at 65! Not bad.

All that suggests to me that billiard is a very nice game,

Continued on Page 16

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3-Cushion At Vanderbilt College

Continued from Page 4

man teams compete, Hackett and Ohyama will be Vanderbilt's cue representatives.

Approximately 25 players from seven states have attended the weekly classes since they started in 1973 at the West Towers basement recreation room. Play at that time was on a very old table which was rebuilt by the university for Little's classes. When the Sarratt Center opened in the fall of 1974, a new billiard table was included in new equipment purchased for the modern and beautiful recreation room on the fifth floor.

It was during the 1974-75 season that Little decided to start with freshmen in making team plans. He learned from the previous year when his best players were seniors and graduation took them away. During 1974-75, the freshmen developed rapidly. After vacation they made real progress from the start of the 1975-76 year. Four of the five players are sophomores and Little is confident he will have one of the best teams in the country the next two years.

In the near future, Dean

Sandlin plans to contact friends at other universities toward developing billiard competition like that enjoyed in other sports.

Little attends three-rail and pocket-pool tournaments in scattered sections of the United States and is familiar with other highly successful tournaments involving educational institutions.

The three-hour sessions at Sarratt Center on Wednesday nights cannot be given the credit for the development of his team, Little says. He points out that all those named to the team have worked hard during classes and practice sessions at the recreation center. Then he is fast to compliment the players for three and four-hour "serious study" sessions every Saturday morning at Nick Morris' 20th Century Club at Twenty-First Avenue and Hillsboro. During the Saturday sessions the players concentrate on more advanced problems of "the diamond system". This has had lots to do with their advancement during the present school year, which brought about the decision by Little and Dean Sandlin to officially name a team.

MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Continued from Page 5

whatever age you are.

You will find enclosed a note you would be nice to give to the circulating manager of The National Billiard News.

Thank you,
PIERRE W. MORIN
Prov. Quebec, Canada

Ed. Note: Following is the article referred to.

PROFESSIONAL BILLIARDISTS

In the July, 1934, issue of the Billiards Magazine is a list of the birth dates of more than 100 noted billiardists. Supplementary lists have been published subsequently in the same magazine. Menke's All Sports Record Book for 1935 gives the years during which various billiardists were champions and also the years during which various professional world billiard records were broken. In studying the billiardists, as in studying the other performers that are mentioned herein, one credit was assigned to a given age group if a billiardist of that particular age group broke a world record. If the same individual broke world records at several different age levels,

one credit was allotted to each appropriate group. If a given player broke three world records during a single year, three credits were allotted to his age group.

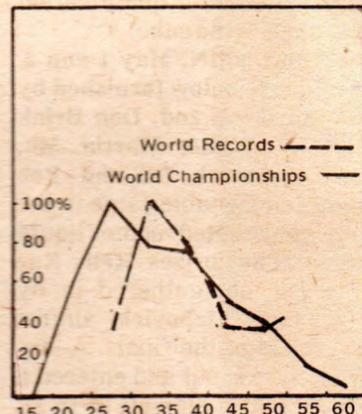


FIGURE 12. A, chronological ages at which 136 professional world championships at billiards were won or retained; B, ages at which 42 world records were established.

In Figure 12 the dash line reveals the chronological ages at which 42 professional world billiard records were broken. The solid line of Figure 12 reveals the ages at which 136 professional world championships were either won or retained. Figure 12 suggests that professional world billiard championships are most likely to be won or

retained by players of ages 25 to 29 inclusive, and that world records at billiards are most likely to be broken by players when they are from ages 30 to 34 inclusive. Figure 12 suggests once again that the very best performance is likely to be attained during a somewhat narrower age range than is performance of lesser merit. Thus, the age range for world championship performance is from 19 to 55, but the age range for the breaking of world records is from 26 to 49.

* * *

Dear Mr. Mullen:

A million thanks for your answer to Bob Barber of Highlands, New Jersey, in LETTERS TO THE EDITOR in the April issue of NBN. While your answer was succinct and to the point, I feel it was all too brief. I would like to add a major point or two.

In the first place Mr. Barber seems to be sounding the death knell for the old-fashioned billiard room or, as I prefer my establishment to be called, pool room. If such is the case, the stalwarts of the industry (as Mr. Barber refers to the retailers of home equipment) are in serious

Continued on Page 20



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George Brunt Best In Nine-Ball Open

Continued from Page 1

But suddenly the famous West smoothness surfaced, and he ran off 2 racks; but he was still behind 8-10.

Then a nineball on the next break, then another rack-run; it's suddenly 10-10 and George hasn't shot in four games. After the break of the deciding game, and a great shot on the one-ball, the cue rolled just behind the edge of the deuce. Dallas carefully pushed out; Pawelski tried a similar shot, but Dallas fired up and out, for five games in a row and an 11-10 victory.

At the same time, George Brunt was getting his considerable nine-ball talents into high gear with an 11-3 pounding of Jeff Carter. Also Mielke turned back Fitzpatrick 11-8, while Boelter did in Dobosenski 11-7.

That put Mielke against Boelter in the semifinal round, along with a Brunt-West match-up.

Boelter outlasted Mielke in a match that was a true study in contrasts; it was probably like Harpo Marx playing Chief Justice Warren Berger. In any event, the low-key approach of Boelter-Berger bested the exuberance of Mielke-Marx this time for an 11-9 win, and Boelter was in the final match.

His opponent was expected by most everybody to be West, but George Brunt continued to sizzle as he fired up a nice upset win (also 11-9) over the Rockford Rocket.

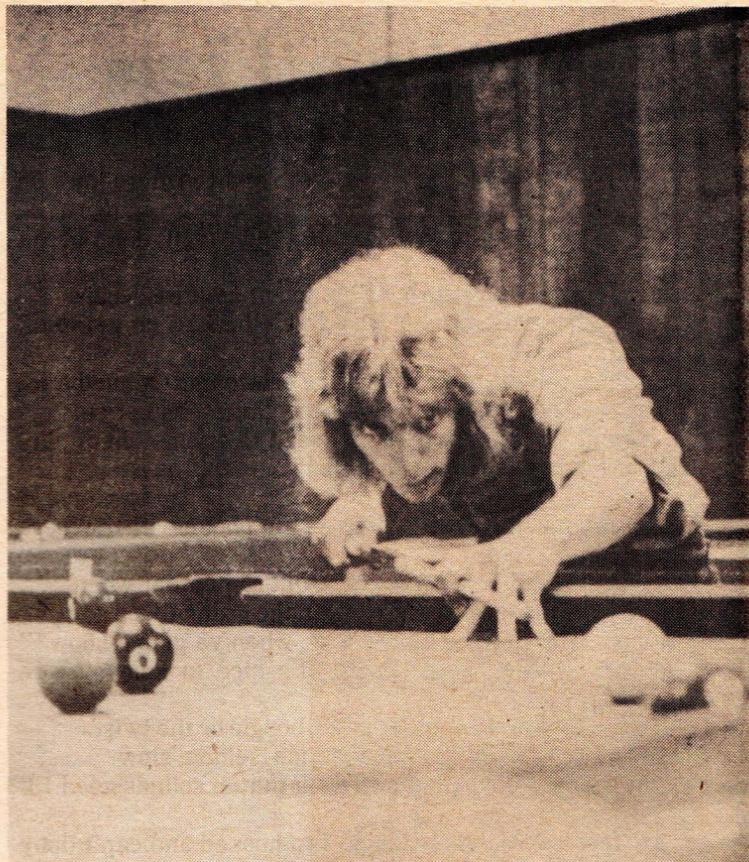
The finals between Brunt and Boelter were a rematch of the final match in their preliminary bracket: both undefeated until the last. And

the result was the same, as Brunt's momentum and steady skill carried him to a 10-2 lead.

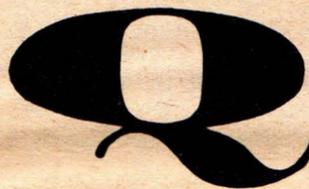
But Boelter was still not about to play dead, and he took four games in a row to make it a much more respectable 10-6. Then Brunt got the chance he needed, and wrapped up the championship 11-6. He was an undefeated and most deserving champion.

The finish:

- 1. George Brunt \$360
- 2. Marshall Boelter 200
- 3. Dallas West 125
- 4. Bill Mielke 75
- 5. George Pawelski 45
- 6. Ron Dobosenski 45
- 7. Jim Fitzpatrick 45
- 8. Jeff Carter 45
- 9. Steve Gumphrey 35
- 10. Jeff Mohl 35

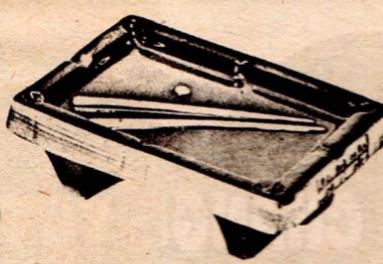
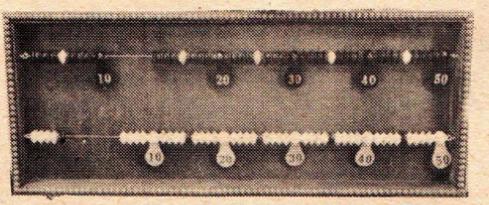
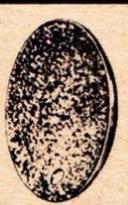


TOURNEY—Doug Brink, Raytown, Mo., eyes a shot in a student open straight pool tournament at KCQ Family Billiards Center, 6551 State. Brink, a junior at Raytown South High School, won the tournament and received a \$312.50 scholarship to the college of his choice.



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Venzke's View

Continued from Page 6

He broke the balls and made a stripe—then three more 'fore he missed

His brother said, "Don't shoot so hard. And watch, don't break that wrist!"

The other player must have been his senior by thirty years
His stroke was sure, his eye was good—he had no gamblin' fears

The darkness grew to early dawn, the crowd had thinned a lot
The kid suggested 9 ball—four man ring game—bigger pot
And so it went 'til after noon—entranced I watched them play
First game I ever sweated! I'm a pool nut to this day

Well, soon my friends were calling on the phone with, "Where ya been?"

Have you been sick or on a trip? We can't remember when
You didn't come around to dance, or make us laugh, or go
To breakfast with us after hours. Say, when ya gonna show?"
And I'd reply, "Gee, golly, gosh! It's nice to know you're missed

But I'm not interested anymore in the boogie or the twist.
I've found another night life full of action, seldom slow
I love to watch the boys play pool. If a match sounds good I'll go

As far as Reno or 'round the block. I'm hooked and can't deny
I'm fascinated by the hour. Tell all the gang good-bye."

It's been ten years since that first game—my friends think I'm a fool

To get a call at one A.M., get dressed and go watch pool
But if the action's good enough, or my favorite hero plays,
And I don't get that late night call, I'll be depressed for days
Beer bars, lounges, billiard dens—I've never felt alone
The players and the gamblers say, "Where there's action, she's at home!"

I've seen a shady deal or two, like a stake horse getting dumped

And heard of winners leaving rooms to get ripped off and thumped

Yes, I've seen players go for broke—bet watches, rings and cues

Why, one night at the Palace saw a session played for shoes
And I've heard losers snivel out, "By damn, we'll meet again..."

Then watched the winner smile and say, "Just name the place and when."

Now you might think that I've digressed from my story of number ONE

I want you to appreciate—set the mood is all I've done
I know his wife and family—finer clan there's never been
And anyone who knows me knows how proudly I call them friend

The men have lots of gamblin' blood—won't pass a sucker's bet

Will match up with advantage to win the wad, and yet
There's many times I've been around and heard these brothers say

To the loser, "Take this sawbuck, kid. Hope you have a better day."

I've never heard them interfere with a match that's being made

Or bad mouth anybody 'less a debt they haven't paid
And no bad words are heard 'bout them in pool rooms anywhere

When players talk they always say, "Those guys are welcome here."

I've seen my hero loan his cue, then sit and watch the game
Never shark to caution roughness 'tho his eyes will often flame

Continued on Page 19

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Answers to Quiz on Page 8

ANSWERS

1. No. Legal size is 4 and 7-8" to 5 and 1-8".
2. Carom billiards.
3. 9 foot table.
4. No. Legal weight may be from 5½ to 6 ounces per ball.
5. Balls must be from a minimum of 2.245" to a maximum of 2.255"; the

object balls are legal, but the cue is not.

6. No. Minimum height is 30.75", maximum is 31.25".

7. Yes. The rulebook places no maximum length for cues.

8. Afraid so. There is no legal specification as to minimum candlepower on the playing surface of the table.

9. Afraid not. Beyond size and weight, the BCA makes no requirements as to condition or uniformity of balls for use in sanctioned tournaments.

10. Your opponent. The BCA rulebook doesn't specify as to the type or style of mechanical bridge that may be used.

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Venzke's View

Continued from Page 18

One time, to a friend, he sold his Joss—was lost without a cue
 I had a beat up Gina, and I asked if it would do
 He liked it so I sold it with the understanding that
 Should he ever tire of it, I could always buy it back
 He had the chance to turn a buck—to get more than he gave
 But he called me as he promised for a friendship sure to save
 I've seen him play for hours straight and never drop a pill
 Or when a player needs a ride, and no one will leave, he will
 If a local trophy team should call 'cause a player didn't show
 And no one else will substitute, if he's free he'll always go
 I've seen him out of stroke and stuck—the atmosphere filled
 with gloom
 But he's never too up tight to smile when a friend walks in the
 room
 He loves the game. His friends love him. He's awfully hard to
 beat
 His personality shines like gold. He's clean, polite and neat
 Yes, I've watched lots of champions play—I've paid and got in
 free
 But if my hero's in a game, you bet that's where I'll be!

Copyright 1976 **Smokey Baker**

Our thanks to Smokey Baker for that fine labor of love — hope she enjoys the year of the NBN as much as we did her poem.

The second winner is in the category of **Humorous, Short and Uncopyrighted Poem**. It's the work of 'Bob Milne of Leonard, Michigan, and is about a fellow who has worked at various billiard establishments around Detroit, Mr. **Bill Koepke**.

According to Bob, people call Koepke "Billiard" amongst quite a number of other nicknames. Here is his story:

The Saga of Billiard Bill

Listen, my children
 And I'll tell you the story
 Of Billiard Bill
 When he stroked for the glory;
 When that 3-cushion maestro
 Strode up to the table
 With this walopping fish
 Who was barely able
 To hold up the cuestick,
 Our brave man, so rash,

Continued on Page 20

World Straight Pool Association Forms

Continued from Page 3

Association recognizes the following players as current champions: the Men's World — **Ray Martin**; the Men's National — **Dallas West**; the National Jr. Boy's — **Mark Beilfuss**; the Women's World — **Mieko Harada**; the Women's National — **Jean Balukas**. The forthcoming Billiard Congress of American Men's U.S. Open will be recognized as a National championship. However, as of the time of this release, we will not

recognize the Women's division as a bonafide contest for the following reasons:

1. After the Billiard Congress of America decided to drop this year's Women's U.S. Open division, Montgomery Ward was willing to fund \$5,000 toward the purse if it was to be continued.

2. The Billiard Congress of America accepted this \$5,000 grant from Montgomery Ward, and also received \$2,500 in sanction fees from women's qualifying tournaments for this year's

U.S. Open.

3. This is a total of \$7,500. The current prize fund is \$3,000. This is complete disgrace and a direct slam at women straight pool players.

We ask the Billiard Congress of America, "What happened to the other \$4,500?"

Players or fans with comments or suggestions may write directly to: Joseph F. Farhat, Acting Executive Director, World Straight Pool Assoc. 2004 N. Larch St., Lansing, Michigan 48906. (517) 487-3528.

The National Billiard News

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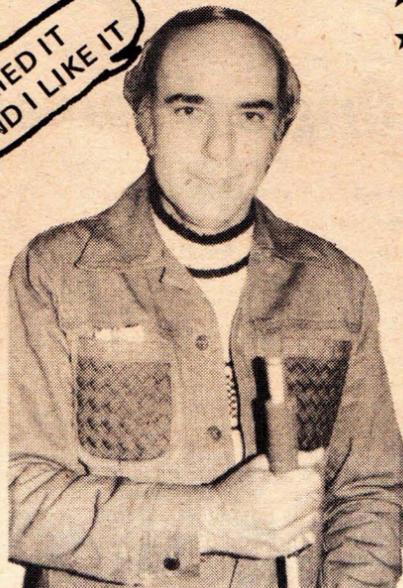
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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

Venzke's View

Continued from Page 19

Vowed once and for all
He would play for The Cash—

They handed the bag man
Cash rolls that would rattle
The nerves of a robot,
Then readied for battle;
They lagged for the break shot,
And Billiard won,
But the "fish" shot 3-cushions,
Score: ought to one;
The "fish" kept on stroking,
The "fisher's" in trouble!
He's scoring in 6's,
And they've made the bet double!

They blasted in billiards,
An interminable on-set!
The hustler being hustled,
But Billiard's not through yet—
From out of the netherworlds
Came incredible spirit,
And he drilled the long ones,
The crowd—you should hear it!

He roared to the one-hole,
The proverbial cash-line!
And it's—"Go for the Roses,"—
The score's four-nine to four-nine!
He saw the seven-railer
As the only way out,
And shot—"MY-GOD-HE-MADE-IT!!"
But the ref—what's this all about?

The Billiard walks big,
And The Billiard walks tall,
But The Billiard walks broke—
He seven-railed the wrong ball!

Bob Milne wins a one-year free subscription to the NBN for the true-story poem. He took a poke at himself, also, in a second poem he sent. So in fairness to The Billiard, here goes:

Distinguished Men and Authors

Distinguished men and authors
Stand at my door in line,
Seeking of my autograph,
Or photographs of mine;
The Guinness Book of Records
And the Who's Who men so fine,
Have come to see the World's Greatest
Choker of the Nine!

Our thanks to everybody who sent their poems. There were quite a few others that narrowly missed winning, and perhaps we'll have space to print some of them in coming issues. I particularly liked those by Rene Billman of Big Spring, Texas, Al Molli of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Mardy Sears of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

And if you just didn't quite get around to it, or have a half-finished poem or half an idea germinating, complete it and keep it for our 2nd Annual next year.

That's this month's view (listen?) from the bleachers; join me in July for a pre-U.S. Open game of 20 Questions all about the first 10 Opens...I'll save you a seat.

STILL MORE LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Continued from Page 16

trouble. Without operators like yours truly to teach beginners some of the finer points of the game, and to help average players improve their games, there would be no home market for equipment. I consider the pool room operator to be the backbone of the industry.

Secondly, Mr. Barber expounds upon the importance of the home equipment salesman to the industry. Let's get one thing straight about home equipment and the men who sell it. Seventy-five percent of the so-called home equipment on the market is junk. The salesmen who foster it on an unsuspecting public don't do the game of pool any favors. I have many former customers who no longer play because a glib "swimming pool" salesman talked them into buying a "department store" table. After the new wears off and the customer discovers he is the proud possessor of an unplayable table, he quits the game in disgust.

This problem exists not only in the area of tables but also in cues and other playing equipment. As an operator, I spend a good part of my time telling customers that the cue they bought from the local discount store or sporting goods store is not worth repairing... or that the \$17.95

set of balls they bought contains three or four balls that are out of round. Mr. Barber can extoll the contribution of the "swimming pool" salesman to the high heavens but I consider the average one to be a hit and run artist... one that makes the sale, gets the cash and hits the road, never to be seen again.

And to the coverage of tournaments, keep up the good work. The reports of same are read with avid interest by the players in my establishment. This type of coverage is also encouraging to operators, who, rather than being on an ego kick, are merely trying to promote the sport that gives them their living.

Thanks for a good publication... one that is rapidly becoming a cornerstone of the industry.

Sincerely,
A. J. HOLT,
Downtown Billiards
Panama City, Florida

* * *

I was introduced to the National Billiard News by the owner and manager of Jimmy's Golden Cue, in Washington, D.C.

The reason for this correspondence is to seek information concerning some organization or charity group

for a pool exhibition for Senior Citizens during the month of August or September of this year... The D.C. Department of Recreation, Special Program Division, is now sponsoring a center wide pool tournament for the elderly to encourage social interaction.

An 8-ball tournament is tentatively planned for the month of June, therefore I am writing this letter hoping you can assist us in any way possible in providing us with some information of some club or organization that could put on an exhibition for the Senior Citizens.

Yours truly,
REGINALD ADAMS
Co-ordinator
Washington, D.C.

* * *

Dear Folks:

After nearly five years without some type of billiard room, in a town of nearly 20,000 people, I would like to take this time to tell you of the sad situation here in Kalispell, Montana.

You are probably saying "I've never heard of Kalispell, Montana?!" Well, for those of us who are sincerely interested in the game of pool, it's quite a letdown to try to maintain a level of interest in this fine

Continued on Page 22



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BULL SHOTS

Continued from Page 5

Fact No. 5 We don't even have a rule book that makes sense. SUMMATION: WE AINT GOING NOWHERE UNLESS WE GO TOGETHER. I offer this as a solution to the problem...We form an Ad Hoc committee made up of the disidents listed above, some respected players, dealers, and manufacturers to provide an immediate communications linkage.

If we fill a room with Pete Margo, Ray Martin, Joe Turner, Bill Stigall, Palmer Byrd, Madeline Whitlow, Joe Farhat, Conrad Burkman, Ray Abrams, Bud Lundahl, Mike Asch, Larry Miller and myself (and who ever else wishes to join the group). abide by a set of parliamentary rules and get this bundle of energy going in the one direction instead of six or seven we can accomplish what everyone wants, a better break for the game and the professionals who play it.

Common everyday ordinary life as pictured in the boob tube indicates that even the artistic, beautiful people that shape our minds through TV have recognized that "pool" is here and an integral part of American life. No longer is it Apple Pie, Red, White and Blue and Baseball but all that has been replaced by Cops and Robbers, Black and Blue, a coke spoon and a pool room. I was lying around the house not doing a thing but communicating with John L. C. Sylvonie when I noticed that the copper "Baretta" was playing pool on Channel 7 with Slim Pickens. Slim Pickens was the villain and he frequented this bar and pool room combination den of iniquity playing a little nine ball with the boys. The copper wanted to get on his nerves and he was committing the unspeakable act of talking to the villain while he was attempting a combination carom to sink the nineball. This obviously bothered the villain but he hid it well by chewing on the butt end of his cue stick.. This was enough for me so I switched channels to search for a program with more entertainment and less social significance.

Channel 4 had another pool game going on between this other copper, this time in uniform, Bumper Morgan, the "Blue Knight", and a couple of juveniles. These all-American kids had been acting up in a bowling alley, duelling with their cues on the lanes, preventing everyone in the bowling lanes from finishing their games and collecting their bets. Wellllll, the "Blue Knight" gives this punk a proposition game and if the cop beats the kid the kids hit the streets. From the action on the pool table I thought that the Police Academy had pocket billiards first on its curriculum, Bumper Morgan shot out the lights and the kids. And they lived happily ever after until I switched channels again to the "News". According to the commentary by the newscasters I was better off back in the pool room on the other stations with the bad guys because during an election year the guys that hand around the joints sure look good in comparison.

DOUG ROBERTS HAS A POOL RECORD.

Doug Roberts, Dade City Florida's answer to Conway Twitty, has recorded a song for posterity called "Choke up on the Eight Ball". We were contacted by his distributor, Savage Records, and sent a sample copy for review. Not bad at all and clearly understandable. Roberts was in a very unusual accident while playing pool in a local tavern when a car ran a red light and tried to get into the game. The auto made it into the building and hit Doug while he was at the table. His back was hurt and while he was recuperating the record company sent him some songs for potential recording. "Choke up on the Eight Ball" was one of them and getting a hunch feeling Roberts agreed to record the song in his album. "Choke" has been a winner thus far with the first song on pool since Meredith Wilson's "Music Man". Catch a listen and send word.

SCHOOL FOR POOL SWAMPED WITH RESPONSE

Bill Lievense Sr... of the Hall of Fame, Lansing, Michigan, called to tell us of the terrific response his full page ad had these past two months. The Lievense family had come up with a unique concept of teaching the game and all its nuances in conjunction with personal instruction by Tom Kollins. Tom is

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World Snooker Tournery

Continued from Page 13

a young Arnold Palmer, he drew the crowd with him constantly. They groaned when he missed, cheered wildly when he made one and it really didn't matter whether he was ahead or behind at the moment, they were with him throughout. He continually takes risky long shots and sometimes misses. When he missed, Reardon punished him for it. But when he came through the crowd went wild and he was off and running, much like our Lou Butera, ready to pot his next ball before the referee could respot the color.

Prior to the trip we heard many stories about how poorly behaved this young genius was. This was not the case as he was every bit the gentleman. On one occasion when he had an early lead and an easy red which would have given him a sizable break, he called a foul stroke on himself for touching another red with his cue. The referee was blocked out, the opponent was blocked out and not one fan in fifty would have seen it. The foul cost him the

game as he left Reardon wide open.

Higgins has a flair for dress which the other pros grumble about and the fans love. Without a doubt he has more natural talent of any young man we have ever seen. His grasp of the layout is fantastic, no pacing around the table making it look difficult. When he comes out of the chair the decision has already been made and he simply steps up and executes the shot. During one frame in which Reardon needed the black to win and left it in the pocket jaw with the cue ball six inches behind, Alex strode to the table and played a four rail bank shot and made it. The crowd went wild while the players seated around the arena groaned.

Reardon, however, was king. Make no mistake about that as he systematically potted the balls and strung the long breaks together to win twenty-seven to sixteen with ten frames left on Friday afternoon. Reardon, every bit the champion, was always

congenial and ready to chat with fans, press, officials or sponsors.

With the champ crowned already and Friday evening's slate still ahead, the sponsor put up an additional \$1,000.00 and the two played seven games with Higgins winning the session. During the evening session we were privileged to have champion

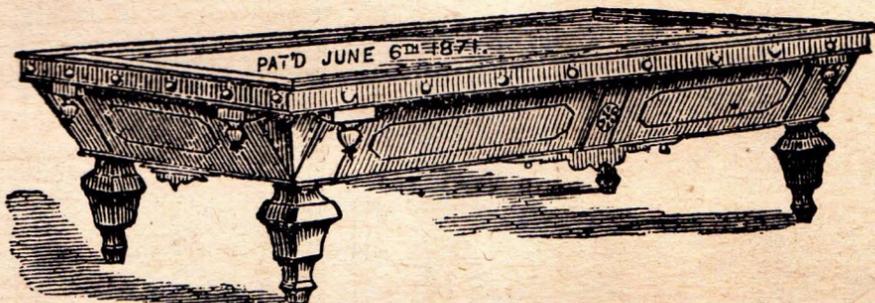
Joe Davis seated at the next table. Joe Davis, author of many "how to" books on snooker, is to snooker what Willie Mosconi is to pocket billiards. The fans cheered for three minutes when he was announced and rushed forth for autographs and hand shakes. The crowd surrounding Joe was so great during intermission we were temporarily forced to vacate our table for fear of getting trampled by the rush. A stirring tribute to the game's all time great.

- The final breakdown was:
1. Reardon — 6,000 pounds.
 2. Higgins — 2,000 pounds.

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LAST OF THE LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Continued from Page 20
game, without some type of support.

Now I realize the Northwest is not exactly the hotseat as far as the game of billiards goes, and most of the action comes about on 3 1/2 x 7, or 4 x 8 foot tables. However the only reason this happens is because there are no other available resources in the form of billiard rooms.

Without being too presumptuous, I feel it safe to say that there is indeed talent, and young talent at that, who if given the chance would indeed support and promote the game in this area. With the recent formation of the IPBA I would ask, no, Beg them to consider some type of promotional engagement in this area. They have stated that this association is

concerned with bringing the game to the people. Well, where is it needed more than in an area where there is virtually no promotion of this beautiful game?

If some type of reply or interest is received from your end I would be more than willing to do anything required to promote some kind of exhibition or tournament here.

Contact me at this address:
Mark S. Ogle
214 Harmony Rd.
Kalispell, Mont. 59901

We have sat back long enough without at least attempting to do something.

I am a pool player myself but have the advantage of living here and knowing quite a number of the businessmen. We have facilities in the form of the Outlaw Inn, which has hosted everything from

National Elks Conventions to International Businessmens gatherings. The area is located in a large valley called Flathead Valley with Glacier National Park within 30 miles.

What I'm trying to say is that the area is a beautiful place to live, only lacking the sport of Billiards. It is needed here and Would Grow in the area if only given the chance.

So, I leave the next move up to you gentlemen. You have the chance to either enrich or ignore this request at the gain or loss of many fine pool players.

Thank you for your time and I would appreciate a reply as soon as possible.
Sincerely,

MARK S. OGLE
Kalispell, Mont.

CAROM CORNER

Continued from Page 15



Mike Asch is promoting his "Bicentennial United States Open Three Cushion Carom Billiards Championship Tournament." with a guaranteed purse of \$6,000.00. The title alone will guarantee Mike plenty of newspaper lines if nothing else is said, but there is plenty for this one. Our game needs an "Open Champion" and we need a tournament of this stature to go along with the National Billiard News Open so that the skill and talent of these cue artists who can play in such a field will have their proper showcase. In talking to tournament headquarters we learned that at this writing there are just a few openings for player registration. Some of the players committed for the Open are: Allan Gilbert, Frank Torres, Jimmy Catranno, Larry "Boston Shorty" Johnson, Paul Melnichuk, Don Brink, Mike Donnelly, Luis Campos. Walter Martin, George Ashby when he comes back from Europe, Bob Ameen, Calder and perhaps Abe Rosen. These are only a few of the names bandied about by Mike Asch and if only half of them were there it would be a hell of a billiard bash. But they will all be there with bells on, oiled strokes, diamonds honed, and going for the big one.

Mike has arranged for quarters for the contestants and the fans at the new Holiday Inn nearby with special rates. (BCA should let Mike Asch make the arrangements for the players at the U.S. Open in Chicago, perhaps then the players will get a room rate that is special). Mike also tells us that Nobby Yousri has taken the pledge and is now married and will not be able to compete in the 3-Cush Open. We hope that Yousri will regain his strength by August to compete in the back-to-backers in California. Golden Gate Open at the Palace in San Francisco Aug. 20 to 22 and the California Open at Tiff's in Los Angeles Aug. 27 thru 29. WHEN YOU RUN YOUR TONGUE AGAINST THE NAP OF THE CLOTH THIS IS WHAT YOU GET: HOT NEWS?

GALE JOHNSON, Major Domo of the American Billiard Association, has had a series of exploratory examinations and will be out of action for a few weeks. This doesn't keep the old brain cells inactive. Gale and I discussed a few items by phone when I called about his health. Most important, Mr. Johnson, is most humble and grateful over the tremendous response the ABA has had with the contributions to the "Special Fund" we discussed in the last issue of NBN. Leo Walch, Gale's friend and associate in running ABA, reports that many fans as well as players have sent monies in toward this good cause. Gale also mentions that the offer of the Adams Cue Company and Dick Helmstetter of a \$250 cue for the winners of the tourneys is due for reassessment. If Adams falls by the wayside here is an opportunity for someone to step in. This has proved to be tremendous exposure for Adams Cues and their wooden jointed European style billiard cue. After some of the players won the cues, used and liked them, there were quite a few sold. Most of these were from the trunk of Bill Hawkins' car but we other dealers sold some too.

We discussed one of Gale Johnson's dreams, that of a cooperative effort between ABA and the BFUSA to increase the activity in international billiards. George Ashby in the European finals is a positive step in that direction with the possibilities of many other BFUSA tournaments throughout the US next year and greater representation in the international finals. We all wish Gale well and a speedy recovery from whatever they find out it is.

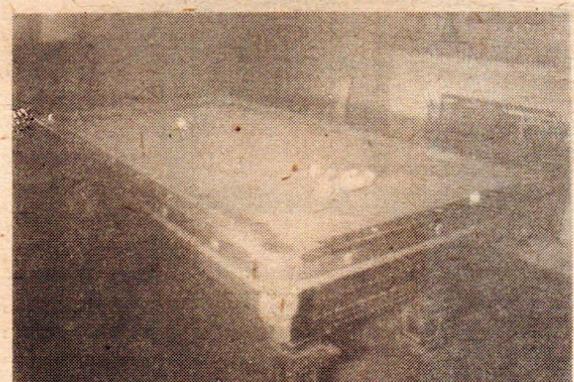
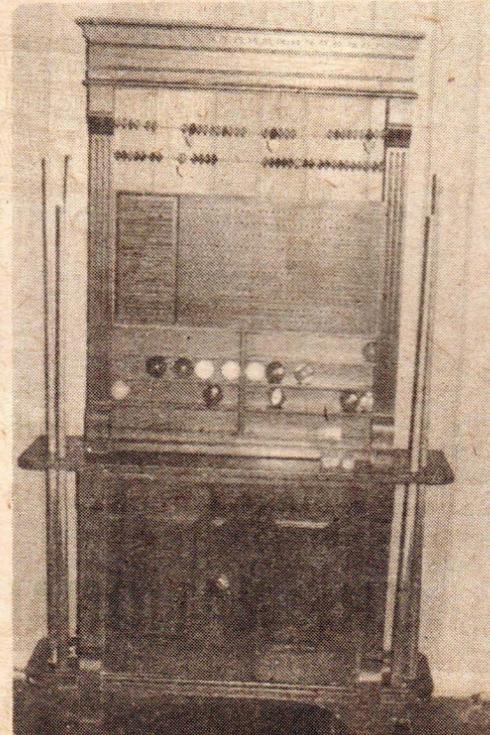
THE POCKET BILLIARD PEOPLE COULD TAKE NOTE OF THE SUCCESS OF ABA. THIS ORGANIZATION OVERCAME INTERNAL STRIFE, MISUNDERSTANDINGS, POWER PLAYS, LACK OF MONEY, AND POOR COMMUNICATION TO BECOME AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE. A few interested parties with great leadership tying it all together produced what are obviously great results. But ABA is still not satisfied to become complacent, they want bigger purses, better conditions for players, better cooperation from manufacturers in promoting the game but they are willing to take it one step at a time.



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Bull Shots

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organizations. It's great to hear some youngster say, "Wow, did you see that shot?" instead of some "fan" saying, "That dummy should've shot the seven ball."

My insides are burning right now to be able to play in competition, but, I have resigned myself to think of my family first. I am still interested in the overall promotion of the game, and will be happy to play in tournaments, providing of course, that I have all of my expenses paid and a guarantee that will at least equal my weekly salary. Most people who are trying to promote a tournament will say that I'm crazy and that I'll never get my demands. This could be true; I've been called crazy many times before. However, I'll have the satisfaction of knowing that I'm with my family and not across country hoping to be able to break even on expenses.

I love the game and the competition. And, I have met some wonderful people in many of the cities in which I have played. I will continue playing exhibitions, and giving instructions because it enables me to meet more people and make new friends. And, hopefully bring some pleasure and entertainment to those people who come to see me play. Allow me to reiterate, I will be happy to help promote the game and assist players in any way I possibly can. Please feel free to call on me.

Every billiard and tavern proprietor could get the name and address of every customer, and have them sign a petition stating that they would like to see the game on T.V. Also, have every billiard dealer contact each person they have sold a table to. This is an excellent way to keep in touch with their customers.

It would mean a lot of work for all concerned; but this could be the solution to our problem. It would give us some ammunition to go to the T.V. networks with. Let's face one important fact; that without T.V., the game doesn't have a future.

To Ray Abrams, Fred Whalen, Bud Lundahl, Joe Farhat, Terry Stonier, and all of the people who sincerely love the sport; best wishes in all of your future endeavors. To Jean Balukas; play in the U.S. Open! And don't let anyone talk you out of it because this could be your biggest year! And to all of my friends and acquaintances in the world of billiards—THANK YOU!

Continued from Page 6

Young of Wichita and Larry Lovette of Louis, Kansas. After a furious effort to win the first session 3-2, Young knew his work wasn't quite over. He went in for a pit stop and grabbed a Coke, jogged back to the table and broke and ran three racks to take the title.

Next year, Bob Owen plans to increase the prize money and perhaps draw some of the big shooters to give the locals a shot at glory and the money. The eyeballers were satisfied with a great showing of the best of the nine ballers in the Wichita area and kept coming back for more. (This tournament was held Feb. 29th, '76 and reported by Reese Wilson.)

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Paul Huebler

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Continued from Page 21

regarded as one of the finest teachers of the game and formerly the professional at the Detroit Athletic Club. This is a program that is not directed at the novice but rather the serious straight pool player who can pocket some balls and play a little position. With lectures and demonstrations Kollins plans to teach techniques and strategy to enable the average player to play championship caliber pool. There is a one week course as well as one for two weeks with the cost of the motel included in the fee. For further information call (517) 487-4578.

Commentary

Continued from Page 2

top of this, many of these people, players included, took off work to attend. In a lot of these cases, the time and overtime sacrificed by these individuals amounted to several hundred dollars.

I would like to use up a few lines here to mention the officials who gave of their time and effort so unselfishly:

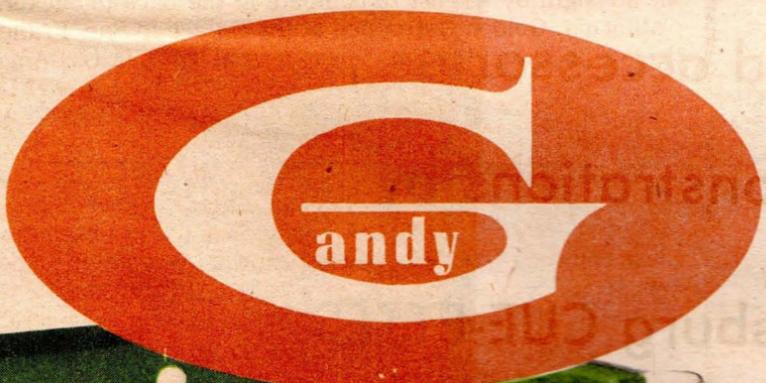
STATE POOL OFFICERS—Hank Marks, Jerry Rokita, George Strahinic, Paul Secan, Art Schrader, Art Hogue.

TOURNAMENT REFEREES—Dick Wesserling, Bob Nettles, Jerry Raymond, John Krug, Charlie Sutphin, Sylvester Coil, Lou Schlosser, Roy Majors, Pat Sullivan.

If I had the names of the players who had likewise forsaken some income to play, they too would be listed.

I think the general feeling was expressed quite well by Ron Howle (runner-up this year and last), who I spoke to prior to the finals: "I'm in it for the sheer fun of it. I play serious pool also, but I really enjoy this tournament. I like the people — they're great. And I want to win it for the post. Last year I got beat in the finals by Fred Kemp...beat good. This year, maybe I'll take it all. At any rate, I'm here because I love the game, and I enjoy the comradeship this tournament affords."

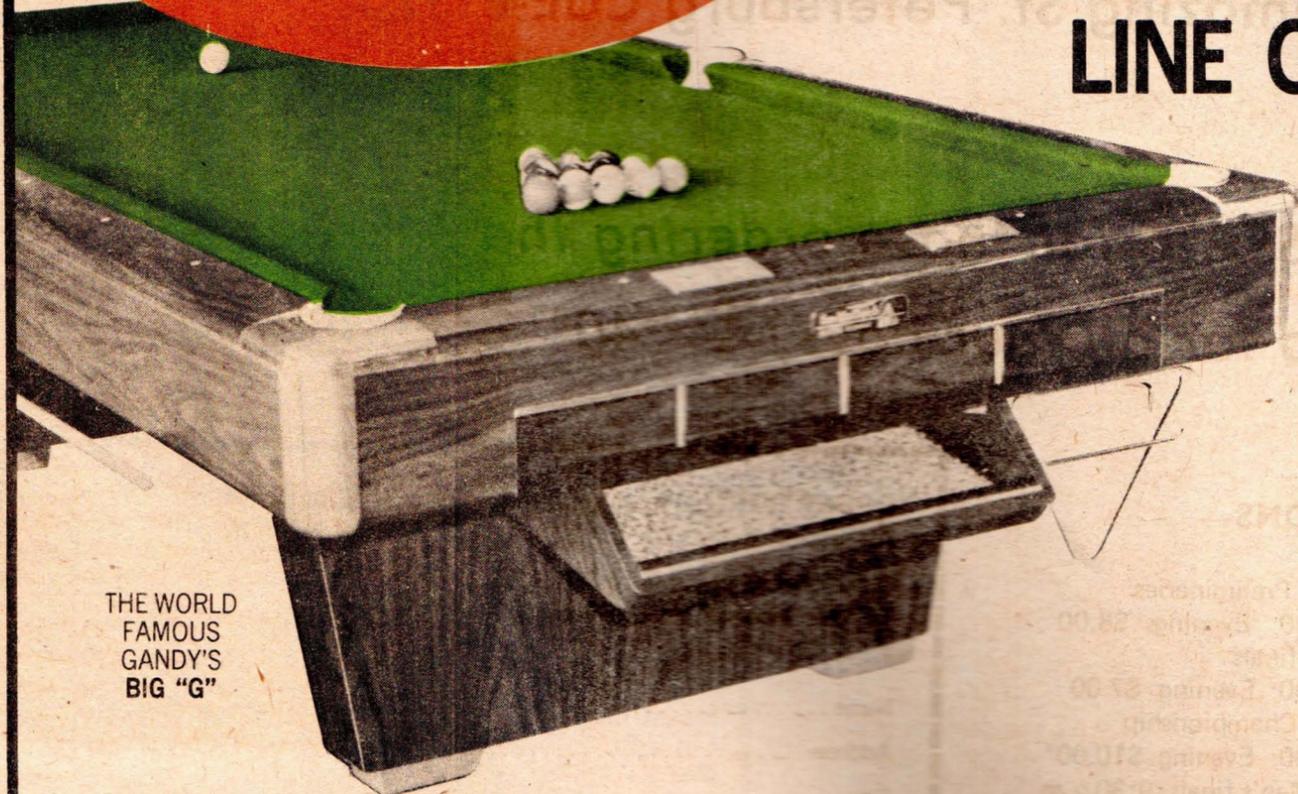
I would like to thank all of the people who made my two days at the tournament most enjoyable. They were perfect hosts.



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